



Global worries flare over whether U.S. sliding toward Iran war

By ROBERT BURNS and LO-LITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — International worries that the Trump administration is sliding toward war with Iran flared into the open Tuesday amid skepticism about its claims that the Islamic Republic poses a growing threat to the U.S. and its allies in the Persian Gulf and beyond. The U.S. military rebutted doubts expressed by a British general about such a threat. President Donald Trump denied a report that the administration has updated plans to send more than 100,000 troops to counter Iran if necessary. But Trump then stirred the controversy further by saying: "Would I do that? Absolutely."

The general's remarks exposed international skepticism over the American military build-up in the Middle East, a legacy of the 2003 invasion of Iraq that was predicated on false intelligence. U.S. officials have not publicly provided any evidence to back up claims of an increased Iranian threat amid other



President Donald Trump speaks to members of the media on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, May 14, 2019, before boarding Marine One for a short trip to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to travel to Louisiana.

Associated Press

signs of allied unease.

As tensions in the region started to surge, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said his nation was worried

about the risk of accidental conflict "with an escalation that is unintended really on either side." Then on Tuesday, Spain temporarily

pulled one of its frigates from the U.S.-led combat fleet heading toward the Strait of Hormuz. That was followed by the unusual

public challenge to the Trump administration by the general.

Continued on Page 2



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Continued from Front

"No, there's been no increased threat from Iranian-backed forces in Iraq and Syria," said Maj. Gen. Chris Ghika, a senior officer in the U.S.-backed coalition fighting the Islamic State group. Ghika, speaking in a video conference from coalition headquarters in Baghdad, told reporters at the Pentagon that the coalition monitors the presence of Iranian-backed forces "along with a whole range of others because that's the environment we're in."

But he added, "There are a substantial number of militia groups in Iraq and Syria, and we don't see any increased threat from any of them at this stage."

Late in the day, in a rare public rebuttal of an allied military officer, U.S. Central Command said Ghika's remarks "run counter to the identified credible threats" from Iranian-backed forces in the Mideast. In a written statement, Central Command said the coalition in Baghdad has increased

the alert level for all service members in Iraq and Syria.

ment said.

At the White House, Trump,

troops to the Mideast was only a "rumor," Lavrov said

not spelled out that threat. The U.S. has about 5,000 troops in Iraq and about 2,000 in Syria as part of the coalition campaign to defeat the Islamic State group there. It also has long had a variety of air and naval forces stationed in Bahrain, Qatar and elsewhere in the Gulf, partly to support military operations against IS and partly as a counter to Iranian influence.

Gen. Ghika's comments came amid dramatically heightened tensions in the Middle East. The U.S. in recent days has ordered the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to the Gulf region, plus four B-52 bombers. It also is moving a Patriot air-defense missile battery to an undisclosed country in the area. As of Tuesday, the Lincoln and its strike group had passed through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea, but officials would not disclose their exact location.

Tensions rose another notch with reports Sunday that four commercial vessels anchored off the United Arab Emirates had been damaged by sabotage.

A U.S. military team was sent to the UAE to investigate, and one U.S. official said the initial assessment is that each ship has a 5- to 10-foot hole in it, near or just below the water line. The official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation, said the early interpretation is that the holes were caused by explosive charges. The official on Tuesday acknowledged seeing some photographs of the damage to the ships, but those images have not been made public. The official also said that the team is continuing to conduct forensic testing on the ship damage and that U.S. leaders are still awaiting the final report. The team's initial assessment is that the damage was done by Iranian or Iranian-backed proxies, but they are still going through the evidence and have not yet reached a final conclusion, the official said. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, second right, speaks to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, second left, during their talks in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi, southern Russia, Tuesday, May 14, 2019. U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman is on the left, Sergei Naryshkin, head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service is fourth on the right, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, is third on the right and Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov is on the right.

Associated Press

"As a result, (the coalition) is now at a high level of alert as we continue to closely monitor credible and possibly imminent threats to U.S. forces in Iraq," the state-

who has repeatedly argued for avoiding long-term conflicts in the Mideast, discounted a New York Times report that the U.S. has updated plans that could send up to 120,000 troops to counter Iran if it attacked American forces.

"Would I do that? Absolutely," he told reporters. "But we have not planned for that. Hopefully we're not going to have to plan for that. If we did that, we'd send a hell of a lot more troops than that."

Reinforcing Trump's denial, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at a joint news conference in Sochi with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, "We fundamentally do not seek war with Iran."

A Trump administration official said a recent small meeting of national security officials was not focused on a military response to Iran, but instead concentrated on a range of other policy options, including diplomacy and economic sanctions. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Lavrov said Pompeo told him that a potential deployment of 120,000 U.S.

the international community needs to focus on diplomacy with Iran, including on the potentially explosive issue of Iran's nuclear program, which is constrained by a U.S.-brokered deal in 2015 that Trump has abandoned.

U.S. Iran envoy Brian Hook told reporters traveling with Pompeo in Brussels that the secretary of state shared intelligence on Iran with allies since "Europe shares our concerns about stability in the Gulf and the Middle East." What the Europeans do not share, however, is Washington's more aggressive approach to Iran.

"We are very worried about the risk of a conflict happening by accident, with an escalation that is unintended really on either side but ends with some kind of conflict," British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told reporters in Brussels.

"What we need is a period of calm to make sure that everyone understands what the other side is thinking," Hunt said.

Last week, U.S. officials said they had detected signs of Iranian preparations for potential attacks on U.S. forces and interests in the Mideast, but Washington has

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Trump faces backlash over plan to dip into Pell reserves



In this May 3, 2017, file photo Education Secretary Betsy DeVos speaks during a school choice event in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

By **COLLIN BINKLEY**
AP Education Writer

Education advocates say a Trump administration plan to use federal Pell Grant money to fund space exploration would jeopardize aid for future college students and could trigger a budgeting crisis within just a few years.

The plan aims to redirect \$1.9 billion from a Pell Grant surplus to jumpstart other projects, primarily a NASA initiative to put astronauts back on the moon. In announcing the plan Monday, administration officials said it would keep the Pell program, the largest source of federal aid for low-income students, on sound fiscal footing and would not harm students. But a chorus of education organizations pushed back Tuesday.

"Sure, there is no immediate impact, but what you have done is undercut the stability of a program that's really critical for helping students afford college," said Jon Fansmith, director of government relations for the American Council on

Associated Press

Education, which represents more than 1,700 college presidents. "This really is an expression of priorities by the administration."

All told, the White House wants to steer \$3.9 billion away from the Pell program's surplus, which is projected to reach almost \$8 billion going into 2020. Along with the latest proposal, the administration's initial budget plan sought to take \$2 billion from the windfall to support other programs.

The proposal comes as the Education Department looks to expand the program. Secretary Betsy DeVos has said Pell Grants should cover short-term certificate programs, and her office is exploring whether it should be opened to incarcerated college students.

In a similar episode this year, the Trump administration proposed to eliminate federal funding for the Special Olympics, despite objections from DeVos. After facing public outcry, Trump said he would leave the money untouched. On

Monday, he said the \$18 million had officially been added to his budget proposal.

Congress has been building a surplus for the program to guard against a sudden surge in demand

for the grants, which often happens during economic downturn. It's meant to avoid another crisis like one during the Great Recession, when the number of Pell recipients jumped by 1.2 million and left a \$10

billion budget hole. In that case, lawmakers saved the program by infusing it with other federal funding and by raising eligibility requirements, cutting access for tens of thousands of students. □



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In this Thursday, March 28, 2019, file photo, Donald Trump Jr. speaks at a rally for President Donald Trump in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Associated Press

AP sources: Panel reaches deal with Trump Jr. for interview

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee has struck a deal with Donald Trump Jr. to appear for a closed-door interview next month, pulling the two sides back, for now, from a confrontation over a subpoena as part

of the panel's Russia investigation.

Under the terms of the deal, according to two people familiar with the agreement, Trump Jr. will talk to the committee in mid-June for up to four hours. The people spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday to discuss the confidential terms.

The deal comes after the panel subpoenaed President Donald Trump's eldest son to discuss answers he gave the panel's staff in a 2017 interview. Trump Jr. had backed out of interviews twice, prompting the subpoena, according to people familiar with Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr's remarks to a GOP luncheon last week. Those people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Burr's remarks in the private senators' meeting. The deadline for Trump Jr. to respond was Monday, according to one of the people familiar with the terms. His lawyers drafted a letter to the committee declining an appearance and the president's son expected to be held in contempt for declining to be interviewed. But before the letter was sent, the committee reached out Monday evening and extended the deadline. The deal was then struck.

A spokeswoman for Burr declined to comment. The North Carolina Republican has weathered fierce criticism for the subpoena from the president and his GOP colleagues. Trump said Tuesday he believed that his son was being treated poorly.

"It's really a tough situation

because my son spent, I guess, over 20 hours testifying about something that Mueller said was 100 percent OK and now they want him to testify again," Trump told reporters at the White House before traveling to Louisiana. "I don't know why. I have no idea why. But it seems very unfair to me."

It's the first known subpoena of a member of the president's immediate family, and some Republicans went as far as to say they thought Trump Jr. shouldn't comply.

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., tweeted, "It's time to move on & start focusing on issues that matter to Americans." Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, a GOP member of the panel, said he understood Trump Jr.'s frustration. Cornyn's Texas colleague, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, said there was "no need" for the subpoena.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said on "Fox News Sunday" that if he were Trump Jr.'s lawyer, "I would tell him, 'You don't need to go back into this environment anymore.'" Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has defended Burr, telling his colleagues during the private GOP luncheon last week that he trusted the intelligence committee chairman. On Tuesday, McConnell told reporters that "none of us tell Chairman Burr how to run his committee."

Burr has "indicated publicly he believes they will find no collusion" with Russia, McConnell said. "We're hoping we will get a report on that subject sometime soon." □

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Border wall to go up in national monument, wildlife refuge

By **ASTRID GALVAN** and
NOMAAN MERCHANT

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. government plans on replacing barriers through 100 miles (161 kilometers) of the southern border in California and Arizona, including through a national monument and a wildlife refuge, according to documents and environmental advocates.

The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday again waived environmental and dozens of other laws to build more barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Funding will come from the Defense Department following the emergency declaration that President Donald Trump signed this year after Congress refused to approve the amount of border wall funding he requested.

Barriers will go up at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, a vast park named after the unique cactus breed that decorates it, and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, which is largely a designed wilderness home to 275 wildlife species. The government will also build new roads and lighting in those areas in Arizona.

Environmental advocates who have sued to stop the construction of the wall say this latest plan will be detrimental to the wildlife and habitat in those areas.

"The Trump administration just ignored bedrock environmental and public health laws to plow a disastrous border wall through protected, spectacular wildlands," said Laiken Jordahl, who works on border issues at the Center for Biological Diversity.

The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment but has typically not said much about construction plans.

At Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, row after row of cactuses decorate 516 square miles (1,336-square kilometers) of land that once saw so much drug smuggling that



This Feb. 17, 2006 file photo shows the international border line made up of bollards: irregular, concrete-filled steel poles, separating Mexico, left from the United States, in the Organ Pipe National Monument near Lukeville, Ariz.

Associated Press

over half the park was closed to the public. But illegal crossings in that area dropped off significantly in the past several years, and the government in 2015 reopened the entire monument for the first time in 12 years. While Arizona has seen an increase in border crossers over the last year, most are families who turn themselves in to Border Patrol agents. The number of drugs that agents seize in the state has also dropped significantly.

But the government is moving forward with more border infrastructure.

The waivers the department issued Tuesday are vague in their description of where and how many miles of fencing will be in-

stalled. The Center for Biological Diversity says the plans total about 100 miles (160 kilometers) of southern border in both Arizona and California, near Calexico and Tecate.

In Arizona, construction will focus on four areas of the border and will include the replacement of waist-high fencing meant to stop cars with 18- to 30-foot (9-meter) barriers that will be more efficient at stopping illegal crossings.

The government has already demolished refuge land in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and construction is set to begin any day. On one section of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, crews have used heavy

construction equipment to destroy a mix of trees, including mesquite, mulberry and hackberry. Those trees protect birds during the ongoing nesting season.

According to plans published last year, the cleared land will be filled in and a concrete wall will be installed, with bollards measuring 18 feet (5.5 meters) installed on top.

After months of public outcry, Congress forbade U.S. Customs and Border Protection from building in the nearby Santa Ana wildlife refuge or the nonprofit National Butterfly Center. But

it didn't stop money from going to wall construction in other refuge lands, nor did it stop the government from building in otherwise exempted land due to the emergency declaration, said Marianna Trevino Wright, the butterfly center's director.

"They're going to have to protect us in every single spending bill going forward, and they have to protect us against the state of emergency," Wright said. "And this administration has made it clear ... that they don't want any exemptions." □

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Pennsylvania House tries anew to ban Down syndrome abortions

By **MARC LEVY**

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) —

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives is launching another effort to out-

law abortions because of a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome, passing legislation Tuesday that faces a veto by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, if it even reaches

his desk.

The vote comes amid a wave of abortion restrictions advancing in more conservative states, setting them on a course to virtu-

ally eliminate abortion access in parts of the Midwest and Deep South, in hopes that a more conservative U.S. Supreme Court will approve.

The Republican-controlled House passed the bill, 117-76, after two hours of sometimes emotional debate about pregnancies, children and relatives living with disabilities. The vote was well short of a veto-proof margin.

It goes to the GOP-controlled Senate. However, similar legislation died last year in the Senate, and its support remains uncertain there, particularly after Democrats who support abortion rights picked up seats.

The bill hews closely to legislation advanced by abortion-rights opponents in other states, and House debate broke down along the lines of those who support and oppose abortion rights.

Wolf's office said he would veto the bill, calling it a "Trojan horse" and "another attempt to ban abortions and put politicians between a woman and her doctor."

Wolf's office went on to say that there is no evidence that the law is needed in Pennsylvania and that Wolf is eager to discuss how the state can better support individuals with disabilities and women facing complex pregnancies.

Senate Republican leadership offered only a brief, neutral statement, saying the bill will be referred to the appropriate committee and that the caucus has not discussed it.

Pennsylvania law allows abortions up to 24 weeks of pregnancy for any reason except to choose the gender. The bill would add to that prohibition a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome.

The bill carries exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother.

Backers said it would protect a vulnerable population whose lives are productive.

"People with Down syndrome have contributed

so much, so much to our daily lives and our society as a whole and they will all continue to do so when we finally recognize that each of their precious lives is worth living," the bill's sponsor, Rep. Kate Klunk, R-York, said during floor debate.

Opponents argued it violates the right of women to make their own decisions about abortion and cautioned against forcing parents to raise children with the genetic chromosomal disorder.

They called it ham-handed, unenforceable and an invasion of privacy that attempts to use children with disabilities to win a political battle over abortion rights. They pointed out that the chamber's Republican leaders refused to allow votes on amendments seeking to boost help for children with disabilities.

"This bill is just another unconstitutional abortion ban from the same legislators who attempt to roll back the right to a safe, legal abortion every single legislative session," Rep. Leanne Krueger, D-Delaware, said during floor debate.

A similar law is in effect in North Dakota, but laws in three other states have been blocked by federal courts. One of them, Indiana, is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear its appeal. Meanwhile, a similar law in Arkansas will take effect in July and a Utah law is awaiting a positive court decision to take effect.

It's not clear how many abortions in Pennsylvania are because of a Down syndrome diagnosis.

The state Department of Health publishes an annual abortion statistics report, but does not collect such statistics about Down syndrome or genetic anomalies.

Wolf has previously rejected abortion legislation advanced by the Republican-controlled Legislature. He rejected a measure in 2017 that would have prohibited elective abortions after 20 weeks and, opponents say, banned the most common method of second-trimester abortion. □



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Suit seeks to hold Vatican at fault for abuse by U.S. priests

By **MICHAEL REZENDES** and
AMY FORLITI

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Three brothers who were sexually abused by a priest from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday against the Vatican, claiming the Holy See bears responsibility because the case was mishandled by former Archbishop John Nienstedt and the Vatican's former ambassador to the United States.

The lawsuit attempts to trace a direct line from clergy sex abuse victims to the Vatican, through Minnesota church officials. Luke, Stephen and Ben Hoffman were abused by former priest Curtis Wehmeyer, roughly between 2009 and 2012.

"I have too many nieces and nephews to let something like this happen to anybody else," Stephen Hoffman said about his decision to come forward. Nienstedt and the former ambassador, Carlo Maria Viganò, have previously denied the allegations raised in the lawsuit. The Vatican's U.S. lawyer, Jeffrey Lena, had no immediate comment. In the past Lena has described sex abuse lawsuits against the Vatican as publicity stunts. The lawsuit's plaintiffs include two other men who say they were molested by Catholic priests, one in Minnesota and one in California. Those two men sued the Vatican separately within the last year, but attorney Jeff Anderson withdrew their cases in antici-



In this July 30, 2014, file photo, St. Paul-Minneapolis Archbishop John Nienstedt speaks at his office in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

pation of Tuesday's lawsuit. Anderson had also sued the Vatican on two prior occasions without success. Anderson said he believes the new lawsuit is stronger because he's made a more complete effort to document Vatican authority over Catholic clerics and to portray the church as a commercial enterprise. The Hoffman brothers' involvement also allowed him to bring in issues surrounding Nienstedt, which he says are emblematic of how church leaders have covered up abuse. "The body of evidence and the scope of the complaint is much broader and much more developed than the first time we litigated this," Anderson said.

Because it has the status of a foreign nation, the Vatican is generally exempt from lawsuits in the United States. Exceptions to the U.S. Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act include wrongful acts committed against U.S. citizens and commer-

cial activities undertaken by foreign nations.

The new lawsuit seeks monetary damages, but the plaintiffs said truth is the goal. The lawsuit asks for court orders requiring the Vatican to turn over names of "credibly accused" priests whose cases have been referred to the Holy See, along with related records. It also seeks names of church leaders who have been implicit in covering up abuse. Ben Hoffman said the church needs to be more transparent and "live in the truth."

"I'm still Catholic. I have a deep love for the church. I have a deep love for my faith, it means the world to me. But the Vatican — we have to fix this," he said, his eyes watering.

Before the Hoffman brothers were abused, church officials received complaints about Wehmeyer's inappropriate sexual activities. In 2004, he was cited for loitering in a Minnesota

park known as a place to meet for anonymous sex, and he lied to police about his identity, the lawsuit says. Wehmeyer was later evaluated at a treatment center for troubled priests and diagnosed with a sexual disorder. The archbishop at the time, Harry Flynn, moved him from West St. Paul to the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Paul and assigned him to administrative duties.

But in 2009, about the time Wehmeyer started abusing the Hoffman brothers, Nienstedt promoted Wehmeyer to pastor. According to the lawsuit, another archdiocesan official cautioned Nienstedt — then newly installed as archbishop — about the promotion and informed him of Wehmeyer's record, to no avail.

Over the next three years, Wehmeyer abused the Hoffman brothers, who were in their mid-teens, during camping trips. After the boys' mother reported the abuse of at least two of her sons to police, Wehmeyer was arrested and pleaded guilty to criminal sexual conduct and possession of child pornography.

The AP does not routinely name victims of sexual abuse, but the plaintiffs have chosen to speak publicly.

Wehmeyer's arrest led local prosecutors to file criminal charges against the archdiocese for failing to protect children. The charges were dropped in 2016 when the archdiocese admitted wrongdoing and agreed to meet with victims and adopt stronger

measures to prevent clergy abuse.

Wehmeyer's arrest also triggered the resignation of Nienstedt after the archdiocese retained a law firm to look into his supervision of Wehmeyer. The investigation alleged Nienstedt had sexually harassed priests and seminarians and had a "social relationship" with Wehmeyer.

Controversy surrounding Nienstedt escalated when a priest involved in the investigation wrote a memo saying that Viganò ordered church officials to end the inquiry and instructed them to destroy a letter they wrote to him objecting to his directive.

Viganò flatly denied those allegations in a statement last year. "I never told anyone that (the law firm) should stop the inquiry, and I never ordered any document be destroyed," he said. "Any statement to the contrary is false."

Nienstedt, who is not a defendant in the case, also denies the allegations. In a response to emailed questions from the AP on Tuesday, Nienstedt said his interaction with Wehmeyer was in the context of archbishop to priest.

"During my time as Archbishop, I was made aware of some challenges Wehmeyer was facing, but was not made aware that he may be inappropriately or illegally involved with minors," Nienstedt wrote. He said that as archbishop, he ensured Wehmeyer was complying with conditions placed on him, including attending counseling. □

UK's May to make new push on her Brexit deal next month

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May will try again next month to secure Parliament's backing for a Brexit deal so that the U.K. can leave the European Union this summer, May's office said Tuesday. Downing Street said May intends to ask lawmakers to vote on a withdrawal agreement bill starting the week of June 3.

Parliament has three times rejected the divorce deal May and the EU struck late last year, laying out the terms of Britain's departure from the bloc. Brexit, long set for March 29, has been delayed until Oct. 31 while Britain's politicians try to break the deadlock.

May's office said in a statement that if lawmakers passed the bill, the U.K. could still leave the EU "before the summer Parliamentary recess," which is likely to start in late July.

But it is far from clear how the government plans to persuade a majority of lawmakers to back May's EU divorce terms, since few legislators on either side of the Brexit divide seem prepared to change their po-



In this Thursday, April 11, 2019 file photo, British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks during a media conference at the conclusion of an EU summit in Brussels.

sitions. And approving the bill, which implements the terms of Britain's departure, does not remove the need for Parliament to separately ratify the thrice-rejected EU withdrawal deal.

The government calculates that if a majority of lawmakers can be persuaded to approve the legislation on Brexit terms, they will then back the deal as well.

Ministers also hope that the

process of debating — and potentially amending — the bill will help lawmakers reach a form of Brexit a majority can support.

But that looks like a long-shot. May's Conservative government has held weeks of talks with the opposition Labour Party in an attempt to reach a compromise on some of the major sticking points, but so far without signs of much

progress.

The two sides do not agree on how close an economic relationship the U.K. should have with the EU after Brexit. Both May and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn are under strong pressure from their party members not to make concessions to their rivals.

However, neither side wants to be the one to pull the plug on negotiations.

Associated Press

May and Corbyn met for face-to-face talks Tuesday. Downing Street said the meeting was "useful and constructive." Their representatives are set to continue the talks Wednesday. But Labour sounded pessimistic about the chances of a breakthrough. The party said in a statement Tuesday night that Corbyn expressed concerns to May "about the prime minister's ability to deliver on any compromise agreement." Labour said Corbyn "raised doubts over the credibility of government commitments." The party fears any promises from May could be undone by her successor. The prime minister is under immense pressure from Conservative lawmakers to quit because she failed to lead Britain out of the EU on schedule.

May has said she will resign once a Brexit deal is approved and make way for a new leader to guide the U.K. through the next stage — talks with the EU on future relations.

Many Conservative lawmakers are pressing her to be more specific and to name a date for her departure. □

France's Le Pen put on spot over Russia while rallying right

JARI TANNER
Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — French far-right leader Marine Le Pen was put on the defensive Tuesday while visiting Estonia to unite Europe's right-wing populists, calling persistent questions about whether her party had links to the Kremlin and took Russian money "insulting."

A meeting of an alliance of far-right parties preparing for this month's European Union parliament elections brought Le Pen to Estonia. Representatives from Italy, Finland and Denmark joined Le Pen and the leader of the nationalist, anti-immigrant Estonian Conservative People's Party.

At a news conference in the capital of Tallinn, an Estonian journalist asked Le Pen about French news reports about a loan her par-



Leader of the French National Front Marine Le Pen attends a meeting with Jaak Madison, member of Conservative People's Party of Estonia, Finns Party representative Olli Kotro, Danish People's Party representative Anders Vistisen, and Manuel Vescovi of Italy's Lega Nord at the House of the Blackheads in Tallinn, Estonia on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Associated Press

ty received from a Czech-Russian bank in 2014 and allegations that Russia supported her 2017 presidential campaign.

"I'm not under the control

of any foreign country. I do not depend on anyone," a visibly irritated Le Pen said. Politicians in Estonia, an EU member with a population of 1.3 million that borders

Russia, are not eager to be associated with pro-Russia agendas.

When the reporter persisted, asking Le Pen about her alleged good relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, she made her offense clear.

"I find your question insulting. I find it hard to understand that you insist on asking about Russia," Le Pen said.

She nevertheless went on to deny all suggestions of being too Moscow friendly. "I am defending the interests of my state (France) and standing up for Europe's interests. I will not allow for us to be under Putin's thumb," Le Pen said.

The Estonian Conservative People's Party, or EKRE, is a partner in Estonia's new coalition government. It might join, at some point, the far-

right European Parliament alliance Le Pen is championing along with League party leader Matteo Salvini, the interior minister in Italy's populist government.

Referring to EKRE's holding five of the ministerial posts in Estonia's 15-member Cabinet, Le Pen said the party "is a big movement that represents the interests of the Estonian people"

Representatives from the League, Denmark's Danish People's Party and Finland's Finns Party attended the meeting in Estonia.

Those parties, as well as Le Pen's National Rally and the Alternative for Germany, are working to grow a new EU legislative group with the goal of radically transforming European Union policies on issues like migration, security and the environment. □

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Poland airs tougher sex abuse penalties amid church crisis

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Poland's prime minister on Tuesday vowed tougher punishments for those who sexually abuse minors after a new film spurred the country into grappling with the problem of abuse by priests.

The documentary "Tell No One" has triggered soul searching in the deeply Catholic country since it was released Saturday on YouTube.

It contains harrowing testimony by men and women of being molested and raped by priests.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki held a news conference in Warsaw with Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro to talk about new legislation the government drafted to more severely punish the abuse of minors. The bill, which must be approved by parliament, would more than double the maximum prison sentence for sexual abusing a



People stand in the Temple of Divine Providence, a major church in the Polish capital, on Monday May 13, 2019.

minor, making it 30 years instead of 12.

It also would define a minor as children age 16 and under, instead of 15.

"Every degenerate, disgusting, cruel, bestial crime,

especially pedophilia, will be even more stigmatized than it is now," Morawiecki told reporters.

In other fallout from the film, Catholic Church authorities on Tuesday covered up a

statue of a priest kneeling before the late Pope John Paul II. According to the documentary, the 91-year-old priest, Rev. Eugeniusz Makulski, allegedly committed child sex abuse.

Associated Press

The statue in Lichen, a town in central Poland, depicts Makulski on his knees, holding a model of the church he had built, a giant basilica that was consecrated in 2004 and is now a major pilgrimage site.

His Marian order issued a statement after the documentary was released saying Makulski had been relieved of performing any pastoral activities and evidence of his abuse had been sent to the Vatican.

"The suffering of victims of pedophilia committed by the people of the Church fills us with deep pain. Nothing can compensate them for this harm," the Marians of the Immaculate Conception said in a statement. The documentary, made by two brothers, features detailed accounts from Poles who say being sexually abused by a clergy member ruined their childhoods. One attempted suicide, another became anorexic. □

Floods renew fear in Bosnia; boy missing after fall in creek

By **ELDAR EMRIC**

Associated Press

BEGOV HAN, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) —

A 6-year-old boy who fell into a swollen creek on his bicycle remained missing after floods hit parts of Bosnia on Tuesday, raising fears the Balkan country could see a repeat of the record flooding that killed at least 23 people and affected about a third of the population five years ago.

The child was riding over a small wooden bridge outside his home when he fell into the water along with his bike, the boy's uncle



This aerial photo shows flooded neighborhood in Sanski Most, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Associated Press

told The Associated Press. "His mother tried to save him. She jumped into the water," Sanel Meseljevic

said, his voice trembling. "We also went in and searched....We couldn't find him. We don't know where he is, if he was swept away ... or he is still somewhere in the creek."

Rescue teams in the central village of Begov Han spent hours looking for the boy and found the bicycle before calling off the search for the day, local media reported.

Torrential rains that started on Sunday caused rivers in northwestern and central Bosnia to break their banks, flooding homes and roads. Local authorities in several

areas urged residents living close to rivers to evacuate their homes and launched emergency measures to respond to the rising flood waters.

A number of schools canceled classes, while electricity and water supplies were disrupted. Landslides closed local roads.

Officials across Bosnia sought to dispel alarm northern Bosnia was at risk for the kind of destruction it suffered when the heaviest rain ever recorded drenched southeast Europe for days in mid-May 2014. □

Saudi Arabia says its oil pipeline was hit by drones



This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows the Saudi-flagged oil tanker Amjad off the coast of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, Monday, May 13, 2019.

By **AYA BATRAWY**
JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An oil pipeline that runs across Saudi Arabia was hit Tuesday by drones, the Saudi energy minister said, as regional tensions flared just days after what the kingdom called an attack on two of its oil tankers in the Persian Gulf.

While both U.S. President Donald Trump and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said they were not planning for conflict, the volatility was felt in oil markets with benchmark Brent crude trading over \$71 a barrel, up more than \$1 on the day.

The pipeline that runs from the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province to a Red Sea port was shut down, but Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih Al-Falih vowed that the production and export of Saudi oil would not be interrupted. The Houthis, who are at war with Saudi Arabia, said earlier Tuesday they launched seven drones targeting vital Saudi installations, without elaborating. They later claimed responsibility for the pipeline attack in comments broadcast by Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen.

Yahya Sari. In a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, al-Falih called the pipeline attack "cowardly," saying recent acts of sabotage against the kingdom were targeting not only Saudi Arabia but also the safety of the world's energy supply and global economy. The attacks demonstrated the increased risks in a region vital to global energy supplies amid heightened tensions following the Trump administration's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and the subsequent re-imposition of U.S. sanctions to cripple the Iranian economy. Iran has since said it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels by July 7 if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal. The Saudis did not immediately assign blame for the drone assaults, which targeted two oil pumping stations west of the capital supplying the pipeline that runs from the east of Saudi Arabia to the Yanbu Port on its western coast. Still, al-Falih in his statement named Yemeni rebel Houthis as a group that must be internationally confronted and accused

them of being backed by Iran, Saudi Arabia's regional rival.

Saudi Arabia has been at war with the Houthis and their allies in Yemen since March 2015, targeting the Iranian-allied rebels with near daily airstrikes. "This is a message to Saudi Arabia: Stop your aggression," Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam told The Associated Press. "Our goal is to respond to the crimes they are committing everyday against the Yemeni people."

Saudi Aramco, the government-controlled oil company, said that as a precaution, it temporarily shut down the East-West Pipeline and contained a fire, which caused minor damage to one pumping station. It added that Saudi Aramco's oil and gas supplies were not affected. Saudi Arabia said the two petroleum pumping stations that were struck by drones are located in the greater region of Riyadh, home to the landlocked capital. The stations, targeted around the same time early Tuesday, are located in al-Duadmi and Afif, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) west and 400 kilometers (250 miles) west of Riyadh city, respectively.

Saudi Arabia built its pipeline in the 1980s amid fears that the Iran-Iraq war would cut off shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The 1,200-kilometer (746-mile) pipeline is actually two pipes that have a total capacity of 4.8 million barrels of crude oil a day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The two oil pumping stations are over 800 kilometers (500 miles) from Yemen's northern border with the kingdom. The drone strikes reflect how the Houthis have tried to expand their capabilities during the four-year war. The rebels have targeted Riyadh with missiles and used drones to disrupt air traffic at Saudi airports near the Yemen border. Iran has been accused by the U.S. and the U.N. of supplying ballistic missile technology and arms to the Houthis, which Tehran denies.

In Washington, Trump told reporters he would "absolutely" be willing to send troops to the Middle East, but that he's not planned for that and hopefully won't have to plan for that. While Trump dismissed a report in The New York Times that the White House is reviewing military plans against Iran that could result in sending 120,000 U.S. troops to the Middle East if Iran attacks American forces or steps up work on nuclear weapons, he said if the U.S. was going to get into a military conflict with Iran, "we'd send a hell of a lot more" troops.

Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader who has final say on all state matters, was quoted by state TV as telling senior officials that his country won't negotiate with the United States, calling such talks "poison." But he also said, "Neither we, nor them is seeking war. They know that it is not to their benefit." At a Tuesday evening gathering, he reportedly added: "This is not a military confrontation, because no war is going to happen."

Washington recently deployed an aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf to counter alleged, still-unspecified threats from Tehran.

The U.S. has recently warned ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in the region. Meanwhile, the details around alleged acts of sabotage to four oil tankers, including two belonging to Saudi Arabia, off the coast of the UAE's port of Fujairah remain unclear.

Satellite images obtained Tuesday by the AP showed no visible damage to the vessels, and Gulf officials have refused to say who they suspected was responsible.

The MT Andrea Victory, one of the alleged targets, sustained a hole in its hull just above its waterline from "an unknown object," its owner Thome Ship Management said in a statement. Images of the Norwegian ship, which the company said was "not in any danger of sinking," showed damage similar to what the firm described. Satellite images provided to the AP by Colorado-based Maxar Technologies showed a boom surrounding the Emirati oil tanker A. Michel, indicating the possibility of an oil leak. The other three showed no visible damage from above.

Associated Press

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Unofficial tally shows Duterte allies winning big in polls

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Rodrigo Duterte's allies appeared to have overwhelming leads in elections for the Philippine Senate, one of the opposition's last bulwarks against a brash populist leader accused of massive human rights violations.

Preliminary results comprising 94 percent of returns from Monday's midterm elections showed at least eight candidates endorsed by Duterte were leading the races for 12 seats in the 24-member Senate. Official Commission on Election results are expected to be declared in about a week. Those leading include Duterte's former national police chief Ronald dela Rosa, who enforced the president's crackdown on illegal drugs, a campaign that's left thousands of suspects dead and drawn international condemnation. Monday's vote is seen as a gauge of public support for Duterte, who is midway



President Rodrigo Duterte shows his forefinger with an indelible ink to prove that he has voted for the country's midterm elections in his hometown of Davao city in southern Philippines Monday, May 13, 2019.

Associated Press

through the single six-year term Philippine presidents are allowed under the constitution. His deadly anti-drug crackdown, unorthodox leadership style,

combative and sexist joke-laden outbursts, and contentious embrace of China have been the hallmarks of his presidency.

Duterte's three children were also expected to win the races for mayor, vice mayor and a congressional seat representing their southern home region of Davao city. The 74-year-old maverick leader first carved a reputation as an extra-tough mayor, who hunted drug addicts and criminals on a Harley Davidson motorcycle and carried the nickname, Duterte Harry, after the gunslinging Clint Eastwood film character.

"The overwhelming majority of the electorate have responded to the call of the president to support those whom he said would help pass laws supportive of his goal to uplift the masses of our people and give them comfortable lives."

Manila-based analyst Ronald Holmes, however, said that except for dela Rosa and Duterte's longtime aide, Bong Go, who en-

tered politics for the first time without their own established bases of support, other leading administration senatorial contenders earned votes based on their own political track records.

The flipside of Duterte's perceived endorsement strength was the weakness of the opposition ticket and its campaign, said Holmes, who heads Pulse Asia, an independent pollster that predicted the dominance of Duterte's senatorial bets. Another analyst, Richard Heydarian, said many Filipinos seem more open to authoritarianism due to failures of past liberal leaders from long-established political clans. Such a mindset has helped the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos make a political comeback, the latest through the senatorial bid of one of his daughters, Imee Marcos, who was endorsed by Duterte and whose vote tally in the unofficial results indicated a victory. □

North Korea demands return of cargo ship seized by US

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Tuesday called the U.S. seizure of a North Korean cargo ship involved in banned coal exports a "robbery" and demanded that the vessel be returned immediately.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, carried a statement by an unnamed foreign ministry spokesman who accused the United States of betraying the spirit of a summit agreement last June between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump. Kim and Trump agreed then to a vague statement

calling for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and improved bilateral ties, but a second meeting between the leaders collapsed in February over mismatched demands in sanctions relief and disarmament.

The seizure of the cargo ship, which was announced last week, came at a delicate moment in U.S.-North Korean ties, with North Korea resuming weapons tests that seem meant to force the United States to ease sanctions.

"The U.N. Security Council resolutions the United States mentioned as one of the reasons for robbing our trade vessel equate to a



This undated photo released by the U.S. Justice Dept, Thursday, May 9, 2019, shows the North Korean cargo ship Wise Honest.

Associated Press

violent infringement of the sovereignty of our country and we have been entirely rejecting them," the KCNA statement said. "The

United States should carefully consider what kind of consequences their daylight robbery could bring to the political situation and

should send back our vessel without hesitation."

Before the United States seized the cargo ship, the 177-meter (581-foot) vessel, named the Wise Honest, had first been detained by Indonesia in April 2018 while transporting a large amount of coal. It was brought Saturday to American Samoa, where it will undergo inspections.

North Korea is banned from exporting coal under U.N. sanctions toughened in 2017 to punish increasingly powerful weapons tests that year. Experts believe coal and other mineral exports help finance the North's weapons industry. □

Venezuela exodus raises worries of babies being stateless

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**

Associated Press

CÚCUTA, Colombia (AP) —

Arelys Pulido had already lost one baby in a neglected Venezuelan hospital where doctors and medical gear are in increasingly short supply, so when she got pregnant again she decided to give birth in a foreign land.

She packed suitcases filled with clothes and a few prized ceramic statues of saints that she hoped would grant her and her unborn child protection as they passed through one of the perilous illegal crossings into Colombia.

Earlier this year, Zuleidys Antonella Primera was born, a lively girl with dark hair and eyes bearing no hint of the odyssey her mother went through so she could deliver her in a hospital across the border in the city of Cúcuta.

Yet little Zuleidys so far has neither the citizenship of the country her parents fled nor that of the nation where she was born. She is one of a growing number of children who have been left essentially stateless.

"It's one more thing to worry about," said José Antonio Primera, the baby's father, a former military officer who now paints motorcycles for a living.

While the children born to migrants qualify for Venezuelan citizenship, they would need to formally register at a consulate or travel to Venezuela to obtain it. Both options are out of the question for many families. They do not want to return until conditions improve and consulates are closed after President Nicolás Maduro severed diplomatic relations with Colombia in February.

Colombia's government grants the newborns full health care during the first year of life and allows them to enroll in school, but experts on statelessness fear that if Venezuela's crisis drags on for years, they could approach adulthood without key rights such as the ability to travel legally, buy property or get married.



Arelys Pulido holds her two-month-old daughter Zuleidys Antonella Primera after she had her feet prints taken for her birth certificate at the Erazmo Meoz hospital in Cucuta, on Colombia's border with Venezuela, Thursday, May 2, 2019.

Colombia's National Civil Registry counts at least 3,290 children born since December 2017 who have been unable to obtain citizenship. Rights groups contend the numbers could be as high as 25,000.

Even by the lowest count, advocates say, the number of children at risk of statelessness now living in Colombia is worrisome.

"It is a significant number when you think of it being created out of one crisis," said Amal de Chickera, co-director of the Netherlands-based Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. "And if it is prolonged and if it's not nipped in the bud it can become much bigger."

Nearly 1.3 million Venezuelans now reside in Colombia, about 40% of whom are in the country without any legal status. Colombia has received more Venezuelan migrants than any other nation, and the numbers are not expected to dip any time soon. Even with the border between the neighboring countries officially closed, thousands stream into Colombia each day using the same dirt roads that Pulido crossed while pregnant.

Colombia's constitution only offers birthright citizenship to children who have at least one Colombian parent or a mother or fa-

ther who can prove legal residency based on visa status.

Many Venezuelan arrivals do not have a passport, let alone a visa. A temporary, two-year visa that Colombia's government has provided as a stopgap measure to nearly 600,000 Venezuelans does not qualify babies for citizenship.

That has left many babies in a legal limbo.

Colombian officials say it is Venezuela's fault that a new generation of children born abroad are virtually stateless, but they are working on finding a remedy.

"We're all in agreement that exceptional measures need to be taken," said Alfredo Posada, a spokesman for Colombia's National Civil Registry.

A government proposal in the works would allow any Venezuelan child born in Colombia since the current exodus began in August 2015 to qualify for citizenship and is expected to be approved in the weeks ahead while legislators are considering a similar bill in congress.

Statelessness first became an international concern between World War I and World War II as the population of those fleeing persecution or excluded from nationality laws rose, said

David Baluarte, an expert on statelessness at Washington and Lee University. The issue caused heightened alarm during World War II when Jews were stripped of their citizenship in Nazi Germany before being sent to concentration camps.

Two United Nations treaties were created protecting the right to citizenship, but today an estimated 10 to 15 million people around the globe are considered stateless.

Statelessness experts say the onus is on Colombia to rectify the status of Venezuelan children born on its territory.

"In the present moment, these children would be stateless in Colombia, so the obligation is on them to grant citizenship," de Chickera said. "That would be a really strict reading of the law, but I think it's important to take into consideration that this is quite an extraordinary moment."

When born in Colombia, the children are given a birth certificate, but it clearly states at the bottom, "Not valid for nationality."

"The fact that the parent is an undocumented migrant shouldn't mean that the child is born an undocumented migrant," lawyer Xiomara Rauseo said.

At the present moment, Venezuelan parents can try going through the courts to get Colombian citizenship for their children, but few have succeeded. Two cases are currently being considered by the constitutional court, said Lucía Ramírez, a coordinator for investigations and migration issues at the human rights non-profit Dejusticia. Others have tried going through the Ministry of Foreign Relations, which must consider any cases in which a foreign consulate does not provide citizenship within three months. Ramírez said Dejusticia is only aware of one case that has succeeded to date. That child, however, was not born to Venezuelan migrants.

"It's not a pathway that people are using," she said. At the Erasmo Meoz University Hospital in the border city of Cúcuta, parents clutching newborns stand outside a registry office, eager to ink their children's feet and obtain their official birth record, only to find out the country isn't granting them citizenship.

"The normal thing to do would be for them to all get Colombian citizenship," said Eduardo Bravo, a former police officer, while bouncing his infant daughter in his arms. "We aren't here in Colombia because we want to be. It's out of necessity."

Pulido, 44, first crossed the border into Colombia four months into her pregnancy for ultrasounds she couldn't get in her home country. The journey on foot and over a river on a makeshift canoe wore on her, as did painful memories of her last pregnancy: The child died during childbirth after a usually minor complication. Pulido blames that on Venezuela's worsening humanitarian crisis.

"Several friends died giving birth there," she said. "I had to come." On a recent afternoon, Pulido and her husband Primera examined the piece of white paper with their daughter's tiny black footprints provided by the hospital. □

LOCAL



Bringing our Graduates Home



ORANJESTAD — On May 24, 2019, We Connect Aruba and the University of Aruba are organizing a seminar with the aim of exploring the challenges of connecting young educated and talented people living abroad to the career opportunities that exist on the islands in particular the Aruban labor market. We want to achieve a better understanding of the mutual and differing goals and ambitions of the young talents and the organizations and companies that want to hire them.

We will have several subject matter experts that will explain their perspectives or experiences on the topics at hand, followed by

discussion and Q&A sessions, with the invited experts participating as opinion leaders and experts, employers and representatives of youth platforms contributing to this discussion. At the end of the seminar we hope to be able to come up with a few points of understanding and departure. You are cordially invited as a partner and or stakeholder in this important current debate on Friday May 24 at the University of Aruba from 14.00-18.00. Register today and Connect with us on the 24th of May in the Aula of Aruba. Register: <http://www.ua.aw/2019/05/09/weconnect-in-aruba/> We Connect Aruba & University of Aruba

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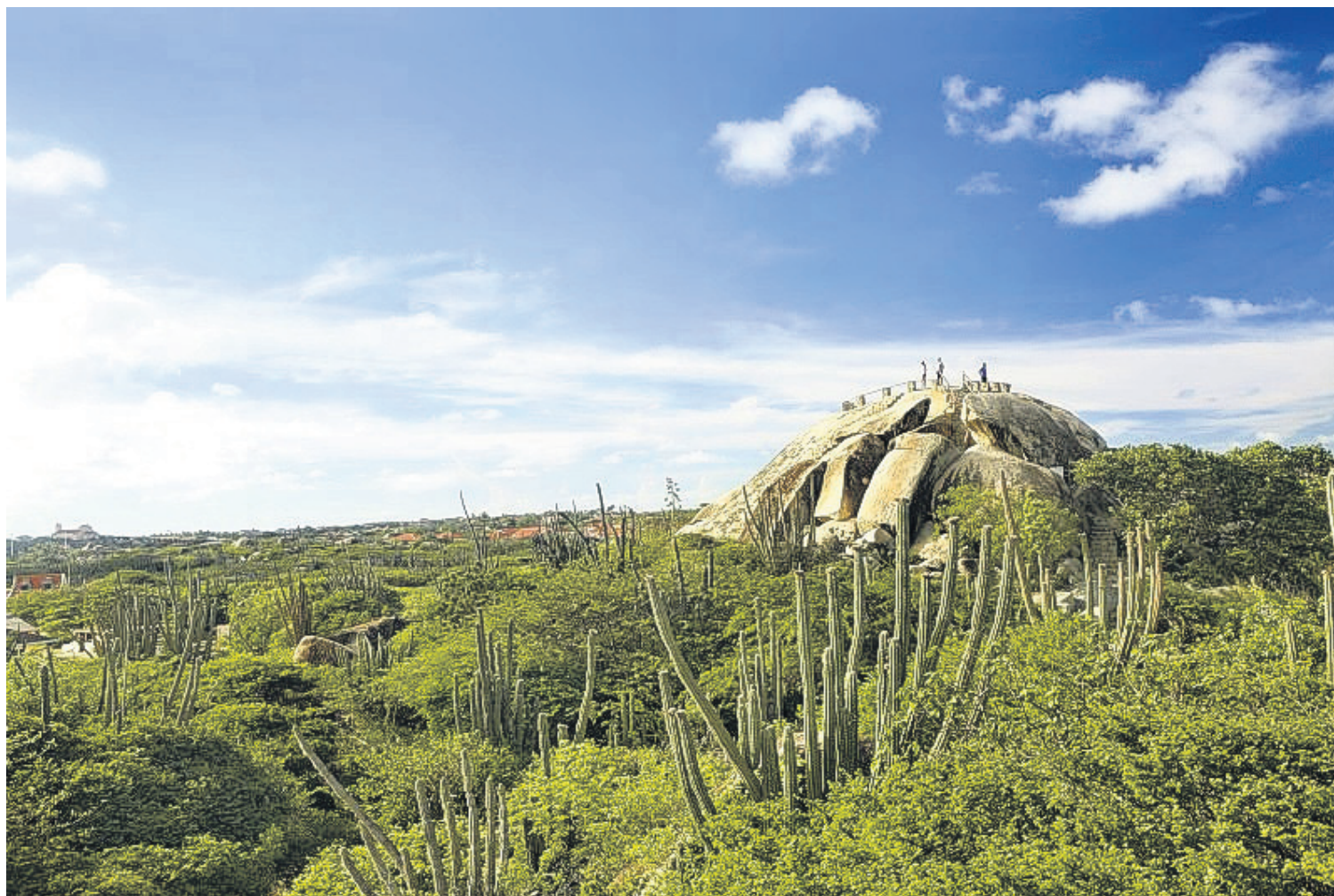
Have a look at
Cynthia Davis.

She send us a great picture and wrote:

***“Aruba to me is.....
Special memories!”***

This was my 17th consecutive year. Went 4-wheeling again and stopped to make a small stone-pile in memory of my mother who passed away in November. Love everything about this wonderful Island.

Main indicators show strong growth of Aruba's Tourism Industry in 2018



ORANJESTAD – On a continuous basis, the Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) records and analyzes statistics related to our tourism industry and reports on them. Due to the end-of-2018 upgrade of the RADEX system, which registers all visitors who enter and leave Aruba, there was an unexpected delay with the reporting of the monthly figures. As a result, all the 2018 stay-over tourism figures were ready by the end of April. However, A.T.A. is making sure that soon the monthly figures will be published every month as usual.

The following is an elaboration on stay-over tourism, cruise tourism, and general tourism entrance (tourism credits) for 2018. A.T.A. is pleased to announce that they exceeded most of their growth targets they set last year.

Stay-Over Tourism

In the course of 2018, Aruba welcomed a total of 1,082,003 stay-over visitors, which is 1.1% more compared to the year 2017. This includes the Venezuelan market.

The total number of visitors

from the North American continent was 792,904, an increase of 6.7%, equivalent to 50,020 additional visitors in 2018. North America dominates the tourism market for Aruba, accounting for 73.3% of all the visitors to our destination during the year 2018.

Last year, Latin America brought a total of 164,085 visitors to Aruba, which is a drop of 19.1% (38,691 fewer visitors) compared to 2017. This is due to a 47.7% drop in the Venezuelan market. In 2018, the Latin American continent brought 15.2% of the total tourism for our island.

From Europe, we received a total of 89,747 visitors in the course of 2018, reflecting a 1% decrease (902 fewer European tourists) compared to 2017. Europe represented 8.3% of the total visitors to Aruba during 2018.

North American Stay-Over Tourism (United States and Canada)

The United States remains as the main tourism market in 2018, with a total of 742,016 visitors to Aruba, increasing the market share by 6.7%, equivalent to 46,298 addi-

tional tourists, demonstrating strong growth in 2018. In 2018, Canada secured 50,888 stay-over visitors, reflecting a growth of 7.9%, or 3,722 more Canadian tourists who visited our island.

Latin American Stay-Over Tourism

This market continues to see the impact of Venezuela. However, diversification for the other countries resulted in growth in markets such as Colombia (a growth of 11.1%, equivalent to 3,681 visitors) and Chile (a growth of 12%, equivalent to 1,206 visitors). With the exception

of Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico, all the countries of Latin America increased the number of visitors to our island during 2018.

European Stay-Over Tourism

Distance continues to be an important role for the market furthest from Aruba, but on the other hand, the European tourist stays more nights on our island. The Netherlands brought a total of 40,231 visitors to our island, which is an increase of 8% (2,986 more visitors in total). Italy brought

10,071 tourists, which is an increase of 2,183 visitors (+27.7%). The United Kingdom brought 10,546 visitors to our island, a drop of 45.1% (18,655 fewer visitors to our island), this in connection with the operation of one less charter from England.

Cruise Tourism

A.T.A. and Aruba Ports Authority are satisfied to remark that this market is experiencing a continuous and stable increase. In 2018, Aruba received 815,161 cruise passengers from 334 different ships, which is equivalent to a 2.9% increase in passenger numbers compared to 2017. Aruba received 18 fewer ships (-5.1%) during 2018 compared to 2017. Clearly, cruise ships nowadays are bigger and can carry more passengers. (Source: Aruba Ports Authority)

Tourism Credits

According to the Central Bank of Aruba, the so-called tourism credits for the year 2018 experienced an increase of 8.2% compared to the same season in 2017. It is important to mention that the Central Bank of Aruba, in its new presentation of balance of payments (2018), reclassified terminologies: tourism receipts are now called tourism credits. (Source: Central Bank of Aruba)

Conclusion

Aruba's tourism successfully surpassed registered results for 2017 in the areas of tourism credits, RevPAR, and cruise tourism. The two main indicators of tourism strength, the RevPAR and tourism credits, showed strong growth in 2018 compared to 2017. The A.T.A. is pleased with the strategic efforts made together with key partners, among others, Government of Aruba, AAA, APA, AHATA, and ATSA. These efforts clearly paid off.

The A.T.A. encourages the island of Aruba to continue working hard to make 2019 another successful year. □



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Honoring of loyal Visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort

NOORD — Recently, Darline de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors. The certificates presented to the honorees are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination.

The honorees were:

John & Judy Miller residents of Massachusetts
Michael & Noreen Delorey residents of Massachusetts
George & Karen Banakos residents of New Hampshire

The main reasons these lovely people keep coming to our island are because of the friendly people, the breathtaking sunsets and the beautiful weather.

De Cuba together with Mr. Edgard Roeloffs, member of Manchebo Beach Resort, presented the honorees with the symbolic honorary title on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their home away from home for so many years. □





Soul Beach Music Festival knocks on the Door

ORANJESTAD — The 19th edition of Soul Beach Music Festival is on 22-28 May with an impressive line-up starring John Legend. The winner of 10 Grammy Awards, Academy Award, Golden Globe Award, Tony Award and many more will shine on stage May 26nd in Aruba during the festival.

Ella Mai is another famous Singer/song writer that will entertain the audience. The star from Great Britain won the Best Song Grammy with her song 'Boo'd up'. Singer/song writer H.E.R. (Having Everything Revealed) is on stage as well, she won two Grammy Awards with her R&B Album. The festival is known for its spectacular ambiance and high quality artists. Many visitors come especially to our island to enjoy the Soul Beach Music Festival and combine this with a relaxing vacation in the Caribbean. The economic impact of the festival is one to mention as in the year 2018 the festival had a result of 9 million American dollars, 7 % more than in 2017. Total 5.500 visitors came to Aruba for the festival, 500 more than in 2017. The visitors spent an average of \$ 350, - per person, per day during their stay. The average stay was six days and 92 % of the visitors were citizens of the United States proving that the US is still the number one market for this festival. For more information about the festival please visit <https://soul-beach.net/2019/>.

Tickle your Taste Buds with Tierra del Sol



NOORD — There is a place on the Northern part of the island that makes up for your perfect dream night. The location: the island's rugged north coast and blue ocean forming your panoramic from Tierra del Sol's restaurant, either from the poolside outdoor terrace or from the elegant indoor restaurant. The offering: From breakfast to dinner excellent cuisine, friendly service, and a gorgeous setting, but now even more special with the NEW 'All You Can Taste' concept – on from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 6PM – 10PM.

Tune in for an experience that will give dining another perspective. We are not talking about the standard 3-course menu, but about a journey through taste-land. The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol invites you to taste as many tapa-sized items as you wish from their extensive fine dining menu.



Fresh Oysters, Tuna Crab Duo, Bruchetta Caprese, Portobello Mushroom, Smoked Beef Tataki or Chicken Curry Waldorf Salad are only some of the welcoming dishes. For the main courses you can decide for Skirt Steak, Duck Venison Duo or Pumpkin Risotto among others and to top it off with a sweet surrender a Duo of Quesillo & Brownie, Melon Martini or Cheesecake are one of the choices. This all for a special price and including a glass of sangria. Indulge into this culinary discovery at the most romantic scenery of our One Happy Island. □



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 Sunday 11:00am – 3:00pm



Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba

Wednesday 15 Saving the Bees

- The National Library of Aruba presents a workshop especially for kids where they will learn in a fun and interactive way the importance of 'Bees' to our world. This will be presented by bee expert Giles Maduro
- From 3:00PM-4:00PM
- National Library in San Nicolas.
- Facebook: Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



Thursday 16 'A Touch of Aruba' Show

- Enjoy the lovely sound of Sweet Pan Music and a cultural show presented by local artist Nico Connor.
- Starts at 7:30PM
- Divi Village -Seabreeze Terrace
- Facebook: Divi & Tamarijn Aruba All Inludes



Friday 17 Ronde van Aruba

- The biggest challenge of Aruba is here. This 72 km race is an annual event that gathers hundreds of participants who will be competing in different categories (1 person, 2 person relay and 4 person relay). If you can't join them than spectate and cheer for them from the side of the road! They will surely appreciate it.
- From 8:00PM-7:00AM (Saturday Morning)
- Marinierskazerne, (Marine base) Savaneta
- Facebook: Ronde van Aruba - MSK Savaneta.



Saturday 18 Museum Bus Tour

- Hop on the bus and enjoy International Museum Day. The tour starts at the Historical Museum Fort Zoutman & Willem III Toren in Oranjestad afterward going to San Nicolas to visit the Museum of Industry Aruba and Nicolaas Store Murals afterwards to the Carnival Euphoria Exhibition and will end back at the Historical Museum.
- From 9:00AM-1:00PM
- Museo Historico Aruba: Fort Zoutman & Willem III Toren, Oranjestad.
- Facebook: Fundacion Museo Aruba



Sunday 19 Aids Candlelight Memorial

- Women's club of Aruba commemorates 'The International Aids Candlelight Memorial with a candlelight walk. The walk will start at Plaza Turismo (in front of Talk of the Town) heading towards Wilhelmina Park and back to Plaza Turismo.
- From 5:00PM
- Plaza Turismo, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Women's Club of Aruba

Monday 20 Bohemian Restaurant

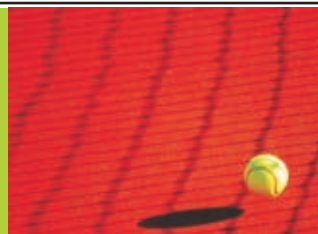
- French flair with a pinch of bohemian magic are the intriguing ingredients of Bohemian restaurant's world cuisine menu. The laid-back restaurant with its unique secret-garden charm, is located on the corner of Barceló Resort in the center of the hi-rise frenzy. Bohemian is hip, stylish and delicious!
- From 6:00PM
- on the corner of Barceló Resort
- Facebook: Bohemian Restaurant



Tuesday 21 Hot Seat Tuesdays

- Try your luck at Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino and win your share of \$1500 in slot dollars. Earn 35 points and qualify for this promotion. Good Luck!!
- From 7:00PM-10:00PM
- Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino
- Facebook: Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino

SPORTS



Brooks Koepka watches his tee shot on the 14th hole during the second round of the Bryon Nelson golf tournament Friday, May 9, 2019, at Trinity Forest in Dallas.

Associated Press

Defending PGA champ Koepka has confidence of an elite player

By BARRY WILNER
AP Sports Writer

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Tiger Woods spent a half-hour answering all sorts of questions at a packed news conference Tuesday. As he walked out, so did more than half of the media members who gathered to hear his every word.

Brooks Koepka then immediately entered the room. Koepka is the titleholder of the PGA Championship and has won the last two U.S. Opens.

To use a phrase familiar in these parts of Long Island, he is not exactly chopped liver.

That's the way it goes for one of the favorites at long and, for now, very wet Bethpage Black.

Not that Koepka cares much about the attention, at least not until folks are cheering for the guy lifting the Wanamaker Trophy.

Continued on Page 23

BLUES BROTHERS



Blues down Sharks 4-2 to level NHL playoff series

St. Louis Blues' Robert Bortuzzo, left, celebrates with teammate Robert Thomas (18) after scoring a goal against the San Jose Sharks in the second period in Game 2 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference finals, Monday, May 13, 2019, in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press
Page 20

Brown's hot seat actually quite cool as 76ers stand pat

By **DAN GELSTON**

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Josh Harris is a billionaire and he if wants to shuttle between New York and the Philadelphia 76ers headquarters in New Jersey on a helicopter, the team owner can do it with ease. If Harris wants to pay \$45 million for his luxury home, he can spend pocket change on a new pad, too. And he if really wanted to silence speculation that Brett Brown was coaching for his Sixers career during the playoffs, well, all Harris had to say was that he had his guy.

Harris instead settled for a milquetoast endorsement before the Brooklyn series, saying Brown was a "great coach" but offering no assurance he would return for another season if the Sixers failed to make a deep run in the playoffs.

"We think he's the right leader to take us where we need to go in the playoffs," Harris said. "I'm focused on the Brooklyn Nets."

Harris let Brown twist through the Brooklyn and Toronto series, the sixth-year coach's fate seemingly hinging on the outcome of four bounces of Kawhi Leonard's jumper that finally plopped through the net at the Game 7 horn, ushering the Sixers into the offseason.

So, would Brown return? It turned out Brown's hot seat was actually as cool as the hockey ice under the hardwood at Wells Fargo Center.

"Brett's job was never in jeopardy," Harris said Tuesday in Camden, New Jersey.

Oh. And if Harris is to be taken at his word, Brown's fate was never in doubt.

"Brett knew through the Toronto series that his job was not in jeopardy," Harris said.

Brown, 178-314 (.362) in six seasons, said he knew from multiple conversations with Harris that his job was safe no matter if the season ended in the second round or a championship parade.

Harris and Brown both said



Philadelphia 76ers head coach Brett Brown speaks with members of the media during a news conference at the NBA basketball team's practice facility in Camden, N.J., Tuesday, May 14, 2019.
Associated Press

it wouldn't have been fair to respond to each report about the future when the focus was firmly on the postseason. But had Harris simply said what he said Tuesday a month ago, the

reports would have all but vanished. Of course, maybe the Sixers didn't feel it was necessary before the Brooklyn series to squelch unfounded rumors.

"Once the playoffs ended,

it made sense to put it all to rest and move on," Harris said.

Brown held exit interviews with the entire roster Monday before he headed to New York for dinner with the ownership group and general manager Elton Brand. The Sixers players then mostly had to defend Brown at the season-ending session with reporters, with All-Star center Joel Embiid using an expletive to answer a question on whether his coach was on the way out. Again, questions that wouldn't have been wasted had a decision on Brown been announced. The Sixers used a late-night news dump to say Brown — who led the Sixers from the painful undertaking of the Process

to consecutive 50-win seasons — would be retained for another season. Brown had agreed last year to a three-year contract extension through the 2021-22 season.

"We have everything that we need to move this program forward," Brown said. The Sixers are willing to give Brown everything he needs to keep the Sixers in the hunt for their first NBA championship since 1983. The Sixers surrendered key assets in two trades this season for Jimmy Butler and Tobias Harris that signaled they were all-in for a championship. Butler and Harris are free agents who can command max contracts on the open market — money the Sixers have and are willing to spend. □

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Blues defense fuels offense in 4-2 Game 2 win over Sharks

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — After the San Jose Sharks relied on a usual suspect to tie the game, the St. Louis Blues took back momentum with a tiebreaking goal from a most unlikely source. Defenseman Robert Bortuzzo scored his first career postseason goal late in the second period that helped the Blues overcome another big game from San Jose's Logan Couture with a 4-2 victory over the Sharks on Monday night that tied the Western Conference final at one game apiece. "It's not really my game but it's something that goes in the back of your mind," said Bortuzzo, who had scored only 14 goals in 365 regular season and playoff games before breaking through against the Sharks. "Jaden (Schwartz) will remember, I told him if I do score a playoff goal you'll like the celebration. You never can plan what you're going to do. It's just a rush of emotion. It's an intense game out there. That's all it is, emotion coming to the surface."

After the surprising goal, Bortuzzo pumped his fist, let out a yell, and held his arms out wide for the embrace from his appreciative teammates, who needed the momentum back in their favor after Couture scored twice in a span of less than two minutes to erase a 2-0 deficit for San Jose. Schwartz, Vince Dunn and Oskar Sundqvist also scored and Jordan Binnington made 23 saves to send the Blues home for Game 3 on Wednesday night tied in the series.

"Pretty solid game tonight," Binnington said. "We had a good start, we were disciplined. When they tied it up, we stayed composed."



St. Louis Blues' Robert Bortuzzo (41) fights for the puck with San Jose Sharks' Kevin Labanc, left, and Marcus Sorensen (20) during the first period in Game 2 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference finals Monday, May 13, 2019, in San Jose, Calif.

That's really important, this time of year especially. We enjoyed the moment and competed hard until the end."

Couture scored his goals in a span of 1:59, giving him an NHL-leading 13 this postseason but the Sharks couldn't get anything else and lost their third straight Game 2 after winning the series opener. Martin Jones made 21 saves.

"The story of the game was

we didn't have enough participants across the board," coach Peter DeBoer said. "I thought Logan Couture was pretty good, a couple of other guys ... It's tough to win this time of year if you don't have everybody going, and I thought they got contributions from everybody, like we did in the first night."

Couture tried to take over the game for the sluggish Sharks after they fell behind

2-0 in the second period on Dunn's point shot that beat Jones through a screen. The Blues were in position to add onto that lead after a questionable interference call against Marcus Sorensen when Couture single-handedly turned things around.

He took the puck from Alex Pietrangelo at the blue line and skated in on Binnington for the short-handed goal just 16 seconds into

St. Louis' man advantage, waking up the crowd.

The Blues then answered late in the period with thanks to Bortuzzo. He passed the puck from the point to Tyler Bozak and skated in behind Joe Thornton. He then took a pass from Joel Edmundson and beat Jones with a backhand into the top corner for his first goal in 31 playoff games. "That was unbelievable, that whole play, the way it developed," teammate Ryan O'Reilly said. "Guys were moving, in motion, he gets it on his stick. So calm and makes that shot, one of the hardest backhands I've ever seen. We were all very impressed. That was a huge goal."

Bortuzzo added a big blocked shot in the third when Kevin Labanc got a pass in the slot with time to shoot, negating one of the few good chances San Jose had in the third. The Blues then killed off a power play later in the period before getting the insurance goal with 3:08 remaining when Alexander Steen fed Sundqvist on a rush for the goal that made it 4-2.

"We just kind of let off the gas pedal I think," Labanc said. "Gave them a little too much room to make plays. The focus for next game is play a full 60 minutes and not give them anything for all three periods."

The Sharks were looking to avoid their pattern from the first two rounds when they followed up convincing Game 1 wins with losses at home in the next contest. But the Blues were the more desperate team from the start and got the early lead when Schwartz finished off a give-and-go with Vladimir Tarasenko with a shot into the corner of the net from the faceoff circle just 2:34 into the game. □

Associated Press

Ohtani hits 1st homer of season, Angels beat Twins 5-4

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Shohei Ohtani hit his first home run of the season for the Los Angeles Angels, a towering two-run shot in the third inning against Minnesota ace Jose Berrios that fueled a 5-4 victory over the Twins on Monday night. Ohtani, who made his 2019 debut last week in his return from Tommy John elbow surgery, reached base on four of his five plate appearances. His 429-foot drive off the videoboard facade beneath the second deck in left-center field was the highlight of a three-run, five-hit third inning. The AL Rookie of the Year went deep 22 times in 326 at-bats in 2018.

Tommy La Stella hit the go-ahead homer against Berrios (6-2) in the sixth, his team-leading 10th long ball of the season in 36 games. Jorge Polanco and Marwin Gonzalez each hit two-run homers off Angels starter Tyler Skaggs (4-3), but the Twins weren't able to overcome this uncharacteristic vulnerability by their All-Star right-hander. Berrios allowed five runs and a career-high 12 hits in 5 2/3 innings, his shortest start of the year, while walking three.

The Angels improved to 5-2



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani, of Japan, swings at an incoming pitch for a two-run home run off Minnesota Twins pitcher Jose Berrios in the third inning of a baseball game Monday, May 13, 2019, in Minneapolis.

on their current road trip, striking first against a Twins team that took the best record in baseball into the evening.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 5, 10 INNINGS

SEATTLE (AP) — Domingo Santana hit a tying two-out RBI double in the bottom of the 10th inning and scored the winning run on Omar Narvaez's single as Seattle rallied past Oakland.

Ramon Laureano hit a solo home run with two outs in the top of the 10th, the last of Oakland's five solo hom-

ers, to give the A's the lead. But Seattle had one rally left, all of it coming with two outs against Joakim Soria (1-3).

Daniel Vogelbach and Mitch Haniger homered for Seattle.

Khris Davis homered twice and Matt Olson and Mark Canha also hit home runs for Oakland.

Athletics starter Mike Fiers and his bid for consecutive no-hitters had long been finished before the crazy 10th inning. He lost his bid for consecutive no-no's on

the fifth pitch of the game when Haniger homered into the second deck of left field.

WHITE SOX 5, INDIANS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Yoán Moncada hit two of Chicago's four solo homers and Reynaldo López pitched 7 2/3 effective innings in a win over Cleveland.

José Abreu and Welington Castillo also connected for Chicago, which earned its third straight win. The White Sox improved to 4-3 against the Indians this season after they went 5-14 against the

Tribe last year.

López (3-4) allowed one earned run and two hits, struck out six and walked two. It was the right-hander's first win since he fanned 14 in a 4-1 victory over Detroit on April 28.

Francisco Lindor hit his 13th career leadoff homer for Cleveland, which lost for the third time in four games. Lindor also hit a sacrifice fly in the third, singled in the sixth and walked in the eighth, but that was pretty much it for the light-hitting Indians.

Shane Bieber (2-2) allowed five runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings in the first road loss of his career.

ASTROS 8, TIGERS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Aledmys Diaz, Robinson Chirinos, Jake Marisnick and Alex Bregman homered for Houston, which extended its winning streak to six games with the win over Detroit.

Brad Peacock (4-2) allowed a run and three hits in five innings for Houston, which has won nine of its last 10 games. The AL West-leading Astros knocked Matthew Boyd (4-3) out of the game in four innings, the shortest start of the season for the Detroit lefty. He allowed three runs and five hits and threw 96 pitches. □

Realmuto, Hernandez lead Phils over Brewers 7-4

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — J.T. Realmuto doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, Cesar Hernandez hit a two-run homer and Philadelphia beat Milwaukee.

Lorenzo Cain had a career-high five hits and Mike Moustakas homered for Milwaukee.

Bryce Harper struck out three times and was hitless in four at-bats. He made a diving catch with two outs, the bases loaded and scored tied in the seventh. The NL East-leading Phillies rallied in the bottom half. Jean Segura struck out swinging but reached on

a wild pitch by Matt Albers (2-2). Junior Guerra struck out Rhys Hoskins. Realmuto ripped a double to left-center to score Segura for a 5-4 lead. After Hernandez walked, Odubel Herrera extended the lead to 7-4 with a two-run double.

Phillies ace Aaron Nola lasted only three innings, giving up three runs and five hits on a cold night following a 52-minute rain delay at the start.

Adam Morgan (2-1) got four outs for the win and Pat Neshek finished for his second save.

Brewers starter Freddy Peralta allowed two runs — one earned — and seven

hits in four innings, striking out five.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, PIRATES 3

PHOENIX (AP) — Eduardo Escobar homered, tripled and drove in three runs, Christian Walker also went deep and Arizona cruised past Pittsburgh.

Robbie Ray (3-1) allowed one earned run and six hits over five innings. He recorded his 800th career strikeout when he fanned Pirates pitcher Nick Kingham (1-1) to end the top of the fourth inning.

David Peralta had two hits and drove in two runs. Alex Avila reached base four times and drove in a run



Philadelphia Phillies' Cesar Hernandez, right, scores past the tag from Milwaukee Brewers catcher Yasmani Grandal on a two-run double by Odubel Herrera during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday, May 13, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

as Arizona ended a three-game losing streak.

In his second start after opening the season in the bullpen, Kingham (1-1) gave up seven runs and 10

hits in four innings.

Josh Bell, Bryan Reynolds and Melky Cabrera drove in a run each for the Pirates, whose three-game winning streak was stopped. □



Nick Kyrgios of Australia returns the ball to Daniil Medvedev of Russia at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Tuesday, May, 14, 2019. Kyrgios won 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Associated Press

Crafty Kyrgios leaves Medvedev slamming his racket in Rome

By **ANDREW DAMPF**
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Nick Kyrgios took full advantage of his crafty game to eliminate Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the first round of the Italian Open on Tuesday.

For his first win on clay this year, Kyrgios was full of smiles as he fired aces and passing shots seemingly at will. Kyrgios set the tone by serving underhand to start the match, catching Medvedev off guard. There were also a bevy of drop shots and even a successful through-the-legs effort.

"I was trying to throw him off his game because I knew he loves rhythm. He's a great player," Kyrgios said. "Today was a lot of fun. I thought the crowd was a lot of fun. It's very important to go out there and put on a bit of a show."

Medvedev played better after getting his lower back massaged after the first set but had no answer for Kyrgios' wide array of shots in the third, prompting the frustrated Russian to break his racket by slamming it on the dirt.

Kyrgios won the final game at love by serving four straight aces. He had 15 aces in all.

Meanwhile, Serena Williams withdrew ahead of her second-round match against sister Venus because of a previously injured left knee.

Also, Joao Sousa saved four match points before beating Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4) to set up a meeting with Roger Federer, who made a late decision to play in Rome because he wants more matches.

Italian wild and Rome resident Matteo Berrettini reached the third round by upsetting 2017 Rome champion Alexander Zverev 7-5, 7-5 amid a raucous soccer-like atmosphere on Campo Centrale; while David Goffin rallied past Stan Wawrinka 4-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Others advancing included Karen Khachanov, Marin Cilic, American qualifier Taylor Fritz, Radu Albot, Jeremy Chardy and Diego Schwartzman.

Former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki retired due to a left leg injury after losing a first-set tiebreaker to American opponent Danielle Collins.

Wozniacki took a medical timeout when trailing 5-2 to get treatment then came back to force the tiebreaker but she quickly retired after losing the set.

Wozniacki also retired from her opening match at the Madrid Open last week.

The 30th-ranked Collins notched her fourth victory over a top-20 player this season, with the other three coming during her breakthrough semifinal run at the Australian Open. □

Carapaz wins Giro stage 4, Roglic extends overall lead

FRASCATI, Italy (AP) — Richard Carapaz of Ecuador sprinted to victory on the fourth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday, while Slovenian cyclist Primož Roglic extended his overall lead after avoiding a crash toward the end of the route.

Carapaz, who rides for Movistar, launched his sprint early and held off Caleb Ewan and Diego Ulissi on the uphill finish at the end of the undulating 235-kilometer (146-mile) route from Orbetello to Frascati.

Roglic was the only major favorite to avoid a crash which split the peloton inside the final six kilometers and he finished two seconds behind Carapaz.

"I didn't expect to win today," Carapaz said. "Our plan was just to protect Mikel Landa to not lose time but a crash at the end changed everything. I was up against sprinters for the stage win so I had to anticipate their action. The moment I chose to attack was perfect." British cyclist Simon Yates and home favorite Vincenzo Nibali, who were second and third in the standings respectively, were caught up and finished 16 seconds behind



Richard Carapaz of Ecuador celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 4th stage of the Giro d'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Orbetello to Frascati, Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Associated Press

Roglic. The Jumbo-Visma cyclist has worn the leader's pink jersey since winning the opening time trial on Saturday and extended his lead to 35 seconds ahead of Yates and 39 ahead of Nibali, who won the race in 2013 and 2016. "I wanted to gain important seconds," Roglic said. "I was in the group that was ahead and I didn't see the crash. Everyone tried to be among the first group, but instead some remained delayed by the crash. Those are things that happen in cycling. Nibali and Yates are very strong, but there could be other riders who come up suddenly and

you don't expect them, or crashes which shake up the general classification."

The only other previous winner of the Giro competing in this year's race is 2017 champion Tom Dumoulin and he fared even worse.

Dumoulin, who also finished runner-up to Chris Froome last year, went down in the crash and he eventually crossed the line more than four minutes behind Roglic, with blood pouring down his left leg.

The Dutch cyclist was taken to hospital, where X-rays ruled out a serious injury. But Dumoulin said his chances of a repeat Giro victory are over. □

Serena Williams withdraws from Rome with injured knee

By **ANDREW DAMPF**
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Serena Williams withdrew from the Italian Open on Tuesday ahead of her second-round match against sister Venus because of a previously injured left knee.

Tournament organizers made the announcement a day after Serena opened her clay-court season with a straight-sets win over Swedish qualifier Rebecca Peterson. It's the third straight event that the 37-year-old Serena has exited from due to physical problems.

She retired due to a viral illness during her third-round match against Garbine



Serena Williams, of the United States, enters the central court to start her match against Sweden's Rebecca Peterson at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Monday, May, 13, 2019.

Associated Press

Muguruza in Indian Wells, California; and withdrew with the left knee injury be-

fore her third-round match at the Miami Open in March. □

PGA champ

Continued from Page 18

Just the way they did last June about 60 miles east of Bethpage when he outlasted everyone at Shinnecock Hills for his second straight U.S. Open victory. He is trying to join Woods as the only back-to-back winners of the PGA Championship in stroke play; Woods did it twice.

"It's always nice to defend, but being in New York, I've got good memories," Koepka said. "It's a fun place to play in front of the fans. They're all energetic, and you come back and you've got good feelings this week and just kind of hopefully you ride that momentum."

No one has more momentum in the big tournaments, not even Woods, who dramatically won his 15th major at Augusta National in April. Koepka was right there challenging Woods for the green jacket.

"I get Tiger was back, so it's a little bit different," Koepka said of where the focus went at the Masters — and always will go with Woods around. "You know, a lot of the attention was going to be there. But some of it was a little bit manufactured on myself. But I think you've got to find a chip or you've got to find something to

motivate yourself and give you that extra little something going into a tournament or going into an event, whatever it might be, to really want to push you over that line."

In fact, Koepka has said for a while that getting over that line in majors is easier than winning regular PGA Tour events, of which he has only two. His reasoning reveals a level of confidence that only the elite of their sport own.

"The easiest way I can break it down is there's ... 156 in the field, so you figure at least 80 of them I'm just going to beat," he explained. "From there, the other, you figure about half of them won't play well, so you're down to about maybe 35. And then from 35, some of them just, pressure is going to get to them. It only leaves you with a few more, and you've just got to beat those guys."

"If you just hang around — I think one of the big things that I've learned over the last few years is you don't need to win it, you don't have to try to go win it. Just hang around. If you hang around, good things are going to happen."

Good things such as contending at the Masters, where a tee shot into the water at the iconic



Brooks Koepka watches his shot off the second tee during a practice round at the PGA Championship golf tournament, Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Associated Press

12th hole when the wind changed might have kept him from beating Woods. And at the British Open, where he already has two top-10 finishes.

At 29, Koepka envisions winning both of those at some point in his itinerant career that began on the European Challenge Tour. And plenty more majors.

"Yeah, I mean, I've got a number. I don't see why you can't get to double digits," Koepka said. "I think you keep doing what you're supposed to do, you play good, you peak at the right times."

"Like I said, I think sometimes the majors are the easiest ones to win. Half the people shoot themselves out of it, and mentally I know I can beat most of them, and then from there it's those guys left. Who's going to play good and who can win? I don't see any reason it can't get to double digits."

To get to four major trophies on his resume, Brooks will need to contend with the reinvigorated Woods, and with British Open champion Francesco Molinari, who was in control at Augusta National until

a back-nine collapse. They will be paired together for the first two rounds.

Woods likes the idea of that pairing; who wouldn't want to be in a group of the most recent major winners?

"As far as this week, this week is going to be a lot of fun with the crowds, the excitement that we've had here the last, what, three events that we've played here," Woods said, referring to two U.S. Opens — he won it in 2002 — and a Barclays. "The pairing that I'm involved in, it's going to be just a boatload of fun for all of us." □

Revolution hire 5-time MLS Cup champ Bruce Arena as coach

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)

— The New England Revolution are turning to one of the most decorated coaches in Major League Soccer to help revive a season and a franchise.

Bruce Arena, a five-time MLS Cup winner and former U.S. national coach, was hired Tuesday as the Revolution's coach and sports director.

He succeeds Brad Friedel, who was fired as coach last week, and Michael Burns, the general manager who was dismissed Monday. New England is 3-8-2 and is last in the Eastern Conference. "Boston is a great sports town with a history of championship teams,"



In this July 22, 2017, file photo, United States head coach Bruce Arena sits on the bench prior to a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal soccer match against Costa Rica, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Arena said in a statement. "And I am looking forward to working with the staff and players to make the Revolution a club that our supporters can be proud of

and that can be part of the tradition of success in New England."

The 67-year-old Arena, the eighth coach in club history, will be introduced at a

news conference Thursday. "Bruce is one of the most successful coaches in American soccer history, and we feel his commitment to excellence, track record of winning championships in Major League Soccer, as well as his success at the international level, makes him the best person to bring the Revolution back to MLS Cup contention," team owner Robert Kraft said in a statement. The Revolution have never won an MLS Cup but have been to the finals five times. The last was in 2014 when they lost to the L.A. Galaxy team coached by Arena. Revolution President Brian Bilello said Arena shares the club's vision. "We believe that now is the time for a

change in leadership and there is no one better suited to usher in a new era of success in New England," Bilello said in a statement. Arena brings a wealth of both domestic and international coaching experience to the job.

He has coached 14 seasons in Major League Soccer, with a record of 202-121-89 with the New York Red Bulls, D.C. United and L.A. Galaxy. He won titles with D.C. United in 1996 and 1997 and with the Galaxy in 2011, 2012 and 2014. He has had two stints as U.S. national coach and holds the record for victories with 81. Arena also won five NCAA Division I championships over 18 seasons at Virginia. □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

A famous French connoisseur of good food and drink, Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin in 1825 said, "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are". In the 1920s and 30s, the nutritionist Victor Lindlahr, who believed that food controls health, developed the Catabolic Diet. Victor said, "Ninety per cent of the diseases known to man are caused by cheap foodstuffs. You are what you eat." However, most people attribute the phrase "You are what you eat" to Adelle Davis, a leading spokesperson for the organic food movement.

Adelle Davis, was an North American author and a pioneer of nutrition during the mid-20th century. She advocated whole unprocessed foods, criticized food additives, and claimed that dietary supplements and other nutrients play a dominant role in maintaining health, preventing disease, and restoring health after the onset of disease. Interestingly, our Aruban diet 50 years ago was made up of whole unprocessed foods that did not contain food additives. Unfortunately, modern families worldwide today have been seduced by the convenience and apparent low cost of junk food.

Another nutritional hero of mine, Dr. Weston A. Price, a Cleveland dentist, searching for the causes of dental decay and physical degeneration he observed daily in his dental practice, turned from test tubes and microscopes to study "people with fine teeth". In the 1930's he traveled worldwide. Dr. Price found that beau-

tiful, straight teeth, freedom from decay, athletic bodies, and resistance to disease, and fine characters were typical of people still eating their traditional diets. Dr Price took thousands of pictures showing children, smiling to show their healthy teeth. When he examined children of parents who had adopted the "modern" diets of devitalized processed foods, he found a disturbing contrast. Children whose parents ate processed foods had more narrow faces, crowded teeth and dental arches, both which were more susceptible to dental decay, and Dr Price found these children to have a reduced immunity to disease.

The impact of your food choices not only affects your physical body, but chemical imbalances can affect the brain, causing depression, anxiety, and other problems. When wrong food, food additives, chemicals and lifestyle put a strain on organs, the spirit can also be affected. How can you have passion when you are exhausted or sick?

The North American Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that they are seeing people in the States with diabetes living longer, yet as our modern diets have changed, diabetes has grown to an epidemic. Diabetes and pre-diabetes (insulin resistance) is a costly medical problem. People diagnosed with diabetes have medical expenditures that are about 2.3 times higher than medical expenses for people without diabetes. Diabetes is preventable when doctors are trained how to identify insulin resistance before it becomes Type II diabetes and patients are educated and willing to change. Food, herb, drug, and chemical intolerance can also have profound impact on your health. Your immune system is a network of organs, glands and tissues that protect your body from foreign substances, such as bacteria, viruses and cancer risk. Besides lowering your immune system, food and chemical intolerance makes weight loss impossible. We always begin our relationship with a patient by recommending a metabolic or blood type diet and supplements to offset modern, devitalized foods.

When patients are ready to do more to improve

their health, we offer a scientifically tested, comprehensive food and chemical sensitivity test using a simple blood test or "ALCAT" test. With results from this specialized test, patients eliminate not only chemicals and "unhealthy" foods, but some seemingly "healthy" foods that show "hidden" reactions, which hold people, back from becoming healthy as possible. We've seen people successfully overcome a wide variety of conditions such as digestive disorders, migraines, obesity, chronic fatigue, skin disorders and arthritis.

The wrong food choices also have an impact on what should be a natural process, growing older. Traditional Chinese Medicine doctors are looking at their maturing patients to see if they are aging "Gracefully". Gracefully aging individuals still possess an inquisitive mind and are full of flexible energy. Even after working all day, my partner, Phyllis and I look forward to an afternoon swimming or dancing the salsa in the evening.

With the wrong food choices, many people are experiencing accelerated aging that can be identified through medical tests. Older patients often complain of exhaustion, stiffness, and dizziness. Looking at their arms and legs I can see the signs of muscle loss that will quickly develop into bone loss. Aging individuals, who have not yet developed advanced degenerative diseases, can quickly recover their metabolic balance, slowing down and even reversing their aging rate.

Get The Point! Recent studies show that diabetes and its consequences have changed from a disease of our grandparents and parents to young adults and children. Luckily, studies also show that lifestyle changes can prevent or delay the onset of diabetes type II. For people with pre-diabetes, starting with what you eat and losing as little as 5%-7% body weight including a minimum of 3 hours of physical activity per week can reduce the rate of onset of type 2 diabetes by 58%. We see these positive clinical results in clinic nearly every day. For individual testing and personal education on how to eat for your best health, call us. □

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Millennial Money: 3 ways to curb a shopping urge

By COURTNEY JESPERSEN

Associated Press

Shopping can be a form of relaxation, an entertaining way to spend time or even a hobby. But it can turn into an expensive habit.

Whether you sometimes give in to a weakness for designer handbags or brand-name shoes, here are three ways to help you manage the urge to spend. Pick the tactic that works best for you: postponing the purchase, making a plan or doing something else instead.

1. PRETEND (OR POSTPONE)

If you want to feel like you went shopping without spending any money, do everything you would when you really shop, but stop short of actually buying anything.

Browse online, pick out a shirt in your favorite color and even add it to your cart. If you're in-store, go window shopping without your wallet. Then wait.

"Have some type of cooling off time period before you commit to purchasing the item," says Ross Steinman, a professor of psychology at Widener University in Pennsylvania. "You should attempt to elimi-



In this Feb. 20, 2019, file photo Saks Fifth Avenue shoppers pass through the luxury handbag section of Saks' flagship store in New York.

nate consumer decisions in an emotional state.

This often leads to impulse buys."

That delay period will vary from person to person, but Steinman suggests waiting at least one day. Depending on the purchase, you could wait a week or even a month before deciding whether to buy the item in question.

This might be enough to work the urge to buy out of your system. But just in case, eliminate any remaining temptation.

"Delete those items so that they are not waiting for you in your shopping cart only one click away to purchase the next time you visit the online retailer," Steinman says.

2. PREPARE

Associated Press

But pretending isn't always a reasonable solution. At some point, you will surely need to buy something. And that's OK.

It's actually best to still go to stores, rather than avoiding shopping altogether, advises Dr. Kevin Chapman, a licensed clinical psychologist in Kentucky. That is, as long as you're proactive and prepare yourself

mentally before you shop. If you "ride the wave" and confront the emotion driving why you want to shop, you can teach yourself self-control, he says.

"Ultimately, you're teaching your brain a new association. Meaning I can think of a store like Target or Costco or Ikea and think that it doesn't compel me to shop per se. It's just another store."

He compares the strategy to overcoming a fear of elevators.

"Say I have an elevator phobia. Well ultimately, at some point, I have to confront an elevator," Chapman says. "But the way you do it is you don't throw someone into an elevator and say, 'sink or swim.'"

Instead, you prepare so you know what to expect.

As it pertains to shopping, Chapman says to formulate a "game plan."

Recognize that you have a tendency to overspend. Create both a budget and a list before you go shopping (in-store or online). Then, hold yourself accountable to that list and feel a sense of confidence that results when you succeed. □

China's auto sales fall 17.7% in April, extending slump

By JOE McDONALD

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's auto sales sank 17.7% in April from a year earlier, the 10th straight month of decline amid trade tension with Washington and an economic slowdown.

Drivers in the industry's biggest global market bought 1.6 million sedans, SUVs and minivans, according to an industry group, the China Association of Auto Manufacturers. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, fell 14.6% to 2 million.

Jittery consumers are less willing to make big purchases amid a tariff war with Washington and unease about China's economic outlook.

Growth in the second-largest global economy held steady in the latest quarter but that was supported by government stimulus spending and higher bank lending.

The downturn is squeezing Chinese and global automakers that are pouring money into meeting government targets to develop electric vehicles.

Auto sales for the first four months of the year are off 14.7% from a year earlier at 6.8 million, according to CAAM.

Sales by Chinese brands in April plunged 27.9% from a year earlier to 585,000. Their market share contracted

by 5.2 percentage points to 37.1%. Purchases of electric and gasoline-electric hybrid SUVs and sedans rose 18.1% to 97,000. That was a bright spot for the industry but well below growth rates of as much as 100% in previous months.

Beijing has promoted electrics with billions of dollars in research grants and buyer subsidies. But subsidies are due to end next year and regulators are shifting the burden to automakers by imposing mandatory sales targets for electrics.

So automakers need to develop electrics that can compete with gasoline-powered vehicles.

Sales of SUVs fell 15.8%, CAAM said, without giving a total.

Last year's auto sales suffered their first decline in nearly three decades, fall-

ing 4.1% from 2017 to 23.7 million. The downturn has prompted suggestions Beijing will cut sales taxes or offer other incentives. □



In this April 16, 2019, file photo, Chinese automaker Geely Auto displays a sedan from its new electric brand Geometry during the Auto Shanghai 2019 show in Shanghai.

Associated Press

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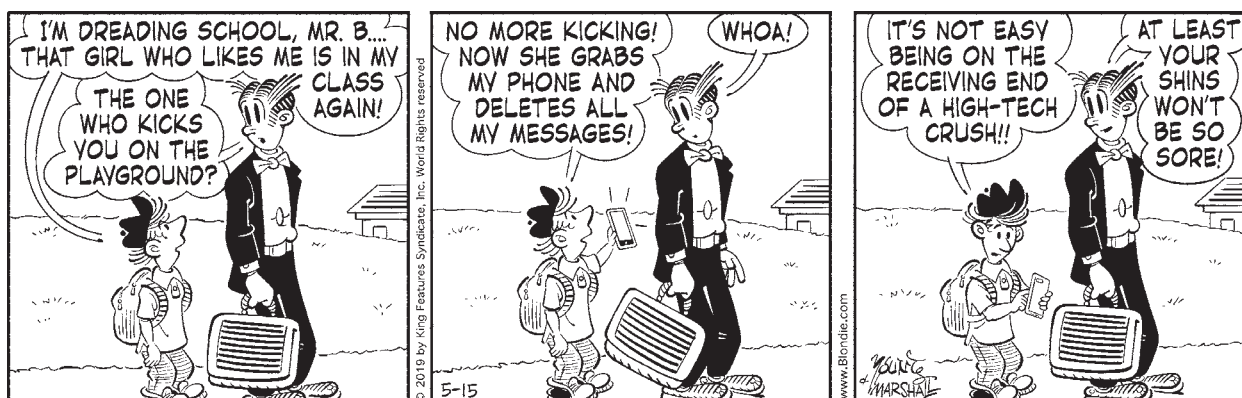
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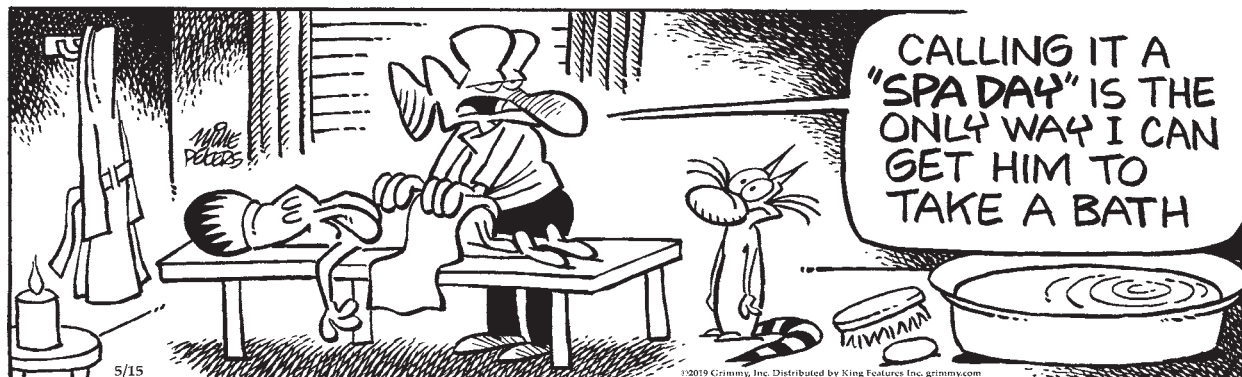
6 Chix



Blondie



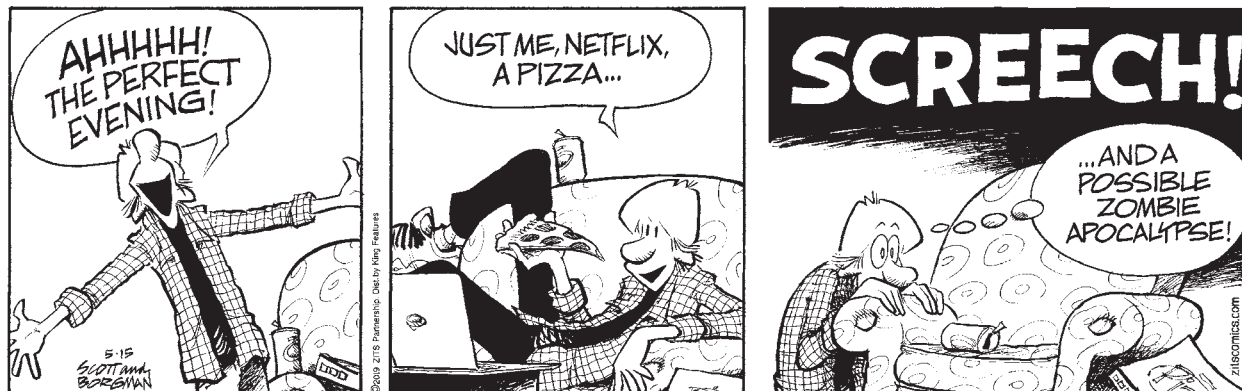
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3				5				
7	4	9	2	6			8	
5				8				2
6				7				9
	2	7	9		5	8		3
		8					4	
		1						6
		3						7
	7	5	1	3	6	9	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/15

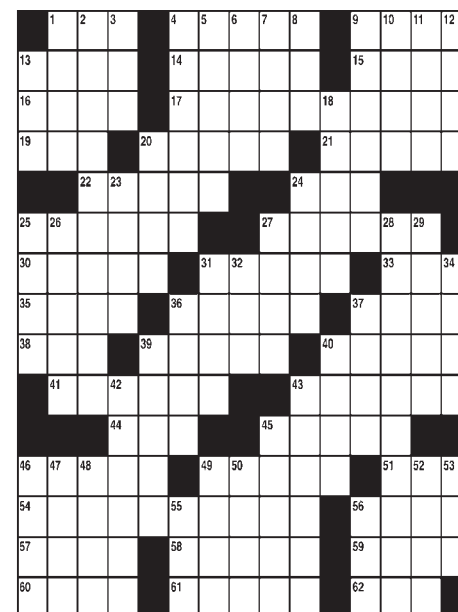
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	1	9	7	5	2	6	4	8
7	8	4	9	6	3	1	5	2
6	2	5	1	8	4	7	9	3
4	5	6	8	7	9	2	3	1
2	7	8	3	1	5	4	6	9
9	3	1	4	2	6	8	7	5
8	9	3	6	4	1	5	2	7
5	4	7	2	9	8	3	1	6
1	6	2	5	3	7	9	8	4

ACROSS

- Cook in oil
- Place of refuge
- Shoots carefully
- Told a whopper
- Locale
- Entreaty
- Rainbows
- Tropical fruits
- TV crime drama series
- Changed addresses
- Relaxes
- ... out; get rid of gradually
- Actress Sara
- Evergreen tree
- Pandemonium
- Numbered golf clubs
- Digger's tool
- Depressed
- Promise's partner, in phrase
- Hit the ...; begin a rapid decline
- Azure or navy
- British custom
- Ill-will
- Verse writers
- Zigzag skiing
- Instructed
- Floor pad
- Island nation near Sicily
- Frequently
- Steeple
- Kids' running game
- Sin
- ... one's time; wait
- Social misfit
- Small weight
- Leak out
- Candy store chain
- Say hello to
- Afternoon hour



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/15/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

GRUB	AMAN	SLIP
LINER	MORE	POLE
UNITE	INCAPABLE	
MGM	PAS	RAREST
	PLEAS	MIS
MARINA	SINews	
ALOFT	CRASS	HAD
COVE	REAMS	FILE
SHE	FINNS	SERVE
	ADRIFT	STALER
	ELF	DIRTY
FARMER	UPA	BIG
EQUITABLE	PRICE	
AUNT	FOAL	SHRED
RAGS	FADS	ODDS

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5/15/19

DOWN

- Forest trees
- Like a give-and-take relationship
- Linear measures: abbr.
- 36 Blemish
- 48 ... up; shredded
- 37 Boxing match
- 49 Like lemons
- 28 Unproven charge
- 50 Yearn
- 29 Canker sore site
- 52 Tool with a blade
- 31 ... milk; nonfat
- 40 Ashen
- 53 Word of mild surprise
- 42 Make ...; atone
- 43 Dartboard
- 55 Greyhound, e.g.
- 45 Chop finely
- 46 Possesses
- 56 Word that startles
- 47 Complimentary

Classifieds

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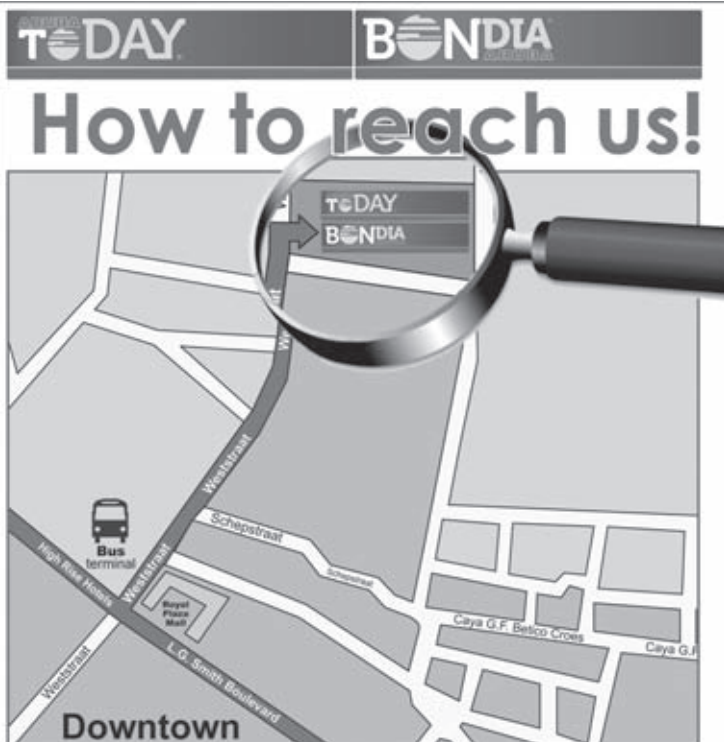
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U.N. chief says 'total disaster' if warming not stopped

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** and **EDITH M. LEDERER**
UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The United Nations secretary-general said the world must dramatically change the way it fuels factories, vehicles and homes to limit future warming to a level scientists call nearly impossible.

That's because the alternative "would mean a catastrophic situation for the whole world," António Guterres told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview.

Guterres said he's about to tour Pacific islands to see how climate change is devastating them as part of his renewed push to fight it. He is summoning world leaders to the U.N. in September to tell them "they need to do much more in order for us to be able to reverse the present trends and to defeat the climate change."

That means, he said, the world has to change, not in small incremental ways but in big "transformative" ways, into a green economy with electric vehicles and "clean cities."

Guterres said he will ask leaders to stop subsidizing fossil fuels. Burning coal, oil and gas triggers warming by releasing heat-trapping gases.

He said he wants countries to build no new coal power plants after 2020. He wants them to put a price on the use of carbon. And ultimately he wants to make sure that by 2050 the world is no longer putting more greenhouse gases into the air than nature sucks out. Global temperatures have already risen about 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius) since the industrial age began. The issue is how much more the thermometers will



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is photographed during an interview at United Nations headquarters on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

rise.

In 2015, the world's nations set a goal to limit global warming to no more than 0.9 degrees (0.5 degrees Celsius) from now. Most scientists say it is highly unlikely, if not outright undoable, to keep man-made climate change that low, especially since emissions of heat trapping gases are rising, renewable energy growth is plateauing, and some countries' leaders and voters are balking. A panel of scientists the U.N. asked to look at the issue ran computer models for more than 500 future scenarios, and less than 2% achieved those warming limits.

Guterres said the wholesale economic changes needed to keep the temperature from rising another degree or more may be painful, but there will be more pain if the world fails. "If you don't hang on to that goal, what you'll achieve is a total disaster," the secretary-general said

in his 38th floor conference room.

If countries only do what they promised in the 2015 Paris climate agreement, it would be catastrophic because the world would warm by another 4.5 degrees (2.5 degrees Celsius), Guterres said, adding "that is why we need to dramati-

cally accelerate... what everybody knows needs to be done."

Yet, globally the trends are going the other way. University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck said it looks unlikely that the world could prevent another 1.8 degrees (1 Celsius) of warm-

ing, let alone 0.9 degrees. And in an odd way that gives the U.N. chief optimism.

Because as disasters mount and deaths increase, the public, especially youths, will realize that warming is "a dramatic threat to the whole of humankind," Guterres said.

So the worse it gets, the more people will demand change, he said.

That's why he's about to visit the islands of Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu in the Pacific Ocean, which he said is hit hardest by climate change.

Guterres said he wants to use the determination and moral authority of the people who live on the threatened islands to convince world leaders to make necessary change.

Here are some excerpts from the 25-minute interview with Guterres, who said he used to love steak houses but now only goes once every three months because livestock contribute significantly to warming. The questions and answers have been edited for

Brazil cancels another U.N. climate change event

ANNA JEAN KAISER
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — After backing out of hosting the 2019 U.N. climate summit, Brazil has now canceled a United Nations climate change event that was to be held in August in the city of Salvador. The decision that came to light Tuesday was the latest blow to climate change consensus by the new government of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro.

The Environment Ministry said the event was conceived by a previous administration as a part of the U.N.'s COP25 conference, which Brazil pulled out of hosting late last year, citing budget reasons.

Environment Minister Ricardo Salles has called climate change a "secondary is-

sue" and says he wants to focus on everyday problems like sanitation.

Salvador's sustainability secretary, Andre Fraga, criticized the cancellation of the regional climate workshop.

"It's very bad for Brazil's image," Fraga told The Associated Press. "It's sad to see Brazil losing an opportunity to be a leader in the world's fight against climate change."

He said local governments in Brazil will continue to make efforts against climate change even if the federal government is not behind them.

"They say they want to focus on urban issues, but anyone with the minimum amount of knowledge about science and climate would know that urban en-

vironmental issues, like sanitation, clean waterways, trash collection, have everything to do with climate change," Fraga said.

In a recent radio interview, the environment minister said he was more interested in dealing with the problems that affect Brazilians who aren't concerned about "climate change in Paris" or "meetings in Stockholm."

"They think I'm going to stop everything in the ministry for seminars and give money to NGOs to do studies? That's what they want!" Salles said.

"It's an industry," he said of the environmental movement.

"It's an industry of consultants, an industry of lectures, an industry of seminars." □



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NBC bets on comedy next year, 'This Is Us' for years to come

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC didn't invoke its "must-see TV" 20th-century marketing slogan in announcing a renewed emphasis on sitcoms next season, but it could have.

Calling comedy the "heart" of its brand, the network announced it is adding four new sitcoms to its lineup for 2019-20, with stars including Kenan Thompson of "Saturday Night Live" and sitcom veterans Fran Drescher ("The Nanny") and Steven Weber ("Mom," "Wings"). On Thursday night, where NBC sitcoms including "Cheers" and "Friends" ruled back in the 1980s and '90s, the network will introduce newcomers "Perfect Harmony" and "Sunnyside" to join returning comedies "Superstore" and "The Good Place" this fall.

"Thursdays will continue to be the home of the smartest, buzziest and most enduring comedies on television," George Cheeks, who is co-chair with Paul Telegdy of NBC Entertainment, said with bravado.

"Perfect Harmony" stars Bradley Whitford ("The West Wing") as a former college music professor whose next chapter unexpectedly involves a small-town church's choir.

In "Sunnyside," Kal Penn calls on his comedic credits ("Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle") and political ones (he served in the



This image released by NBC shows, from left, Joel Kim Booster, Poppy Liu, Samba Schutte, Kal Penn, Diana Marie Riva and Moses Storm in a scene from "Sunnyside."

Associated Press

Obama administration) to play a fallen New York City councilman who's seeking redemption for himself and help for immigrants dreaming of American citizenship. Thompson will do double-duty at NBC next season, sticking with "SNL" and starring in "The Kenan Show," with Chris Rock among the executive producers. In the midseason series, Thompson plays a dedicated dad balancing family, work and a meddling father-in-law played by Andy Garcia.

Drescher and Weber star in "Indebted," also for midseason. They play what NBC called "boomerang parents" who, broke and unannounced, move back

in with their son and daughter-in-law.

The long network afterlife of "Friends" and other sitcoms makes them valuable now and in the future for its makers, which for "Sunnyside" and "The Kenan Show" include NBC corporate sibling Universal Television.

NBC kicked off the broadcast networks' presentation of their new schedules to advertisers in New York this week. The network said it's working from a position of ratings strength but, acknowledging the rising competition from streaming platforms such as Netflix, said shows that begin on the network will have a critical digital afterlife.

MORE 'THIS IS US,' MORE DRAMA

The popular drama's return wasn't in doubt, but NBC cemented its value to the network by renewing it for what it called an "unprecedented" three more years.

Whether it will continue beyond season six is "open for right now," said Paul Telegdy, who is co-chair with George Cheeks of NBC Entertainment. Series creator Dan Fogelman "has a plan for the show," but Telegdy wouldn't tip his hand as to whether that plan will mean even more years with the Pearson family.

"This Is Us" will return in the

fall, but fans of some NBC shows, including "Manifest," "Will & Grace" and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," will have to wait until midseason in early 2020.

NBC executives said they're not worried by the challenge of drawing audience attention to late-arriving entries.

Four new dramas are slated for the coming season, with one set for fall. "Bluff City Law" stars NBC alum Jimmy Smits ("The West Wing," "L.A. Law") as head of a celebrated Memphis, Tennessee, law firm who is joined by his estranged daughter.

The midseason newcomers include "Council of Dads," about a family man who makes sure his brood will always have the fatherly help they need; "Lincoln," inspired by the novel "The Bone Collector," and "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," about a brilliant computer coder who's able to eavesdrop on the hopes of those around her through her songs.

'LITTLE BIG SHOTS' MAKE-OVER

Steve Harvey is out and Melissa McCarthy is in as host of what NBC is describing as a revamp of the talent showcase for kids.

"It's a real refresh for a brand that has done very well for us," Telegdy said. McCarthy is "an incredible comedian" who will bring a fresh perspective to the series, he said.

UK halts export of 'Lady Chatterley' copy from famous trial

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government used its powers to preserve the nation's cultural treasures on Monday to halt the export of a tattered paperback copy of "Lady Chatterley's Lover." The copy of the once-scandalous book was used by the judge in the U.K. obscenity trial of Penguin Books. Penguin was prosecuted in 1960 for publishing D.H. Lawrence's novel about an affair between a wealthy woman and her husband's gamekeeper, a landmark in the frank liter-



In this Friday, Oct. 26, 2018 file photo, a copy of D.H. Lawrence's book "Lady Chatterley's Lover" that was the judge's personal version used in the infamous 1960 Chatterley trial, on view in Sotheby's auction house in London.

Associated Press

ary depiction of sexuality. A prosecution lawyer infamously asked in court whether it was "a book that you would ... wish your wife or your servants to read?" It took jurors just three hours of deliberation to find Penguin not guilty, and the case is regarded as a landmark victory for freedom of speech and a sign of changing social mores.

The copy used by judge Laurence Byrne contains notes by his wife Dorothy detailing the explicit passages, and a hand-sewn damask bag designed to

stop photographers snapping the judge carrying the scandalous tome.

It was sold to an anonymous overseas bidder at a Sotheby's auction in October for 56,250 pounds (\$73,000). The government's decision halts the export for several months to see whether a buyer can be found to keep it in Britain.

Arts minister Michael Ellis said the Chatterley trial "was a watershed moment in cultural history, when Victorian ideals were overtaken by a more modern attitude."

New doc chronicles how a California farming oasis came to be

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press
MOORPARK, Calif. (AP) — John and Molly Chester, a filmmaker and a chef, had made a decision that many urbanites only fantasize about: They decided to leave their life in Los Angeles and start a farm that would function in harmony with nature. Their family and friends thought they were crazy, but they were determined. They'd

bought 200 acres of land 50 miles away from downtown LA, in Moorpark, California, and they'd found an investor to fund the adventure. The only problem? The land was dead and they knew nothing about farming. Eight years later, visiting the idyllic and suspiciously lovely smelling Apricot Lane Farms — where they grow over 100 types of vegetables, 75 types of fruit,



This April 17, 2019 photo shows John Chester, left, and his wife Molly, of the documentary film "The Biggest Little Farm," at Apricot Lane Farms in Moorpark, Calif.

Associated Press

from avocado to citrus, and raise animals including cows, sheep, chickens, ducks, guinea hens and a pig named Emma — you'd hardly know either of those things. But the Chesters have pulled the curtain back on what it took to get there in the documentary "The Biggest Little Farm," which opens in select theaters Friday. The film, which John Chester directed, does not gloss over the hardships, the doubt and the occasional death that came with their dream of not using chemicals on the crops or drugs on the animals in this intimate look at how they made a biodynamic farm out of nothing. John Chester said it's "life

affirming" to go back and watch how far they've come. "It was about continuing to move forward in the presence of great failure and great embarrassment," he said. They didn't set out to make a film initially. John Chester had left the business behind, and, besides, he figured, they weren't even experts. Still, being a documentarian at heart, he had the itch to film nonetheless and starting amassing footage of everything (mostly failures). But then five years in, things started to change: The farm was actually working. "We saw the return of so much wildlife and we saw pest and predator rela-

tionships start to balance things out and I was able to capture those things," John Chester said. "I knew at that moment that we had a very unique opportunity to tell a story." The technique employed at Apricot Lane Farms is something known as biomimicry, which basically relies on the idea that any problem can be solved through nature. They secret to everything, they say, is in the soil and the cover crops that rebuilt the land and preserved the water. "The food we grow truly is special," said Molly Chester. "It's very nutrient-dense and flavorful because we focus on soil development." □

Still kicking: Ralph Macchio revives 'Karate Kid' franchise

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — After starring in three "Karate Kid" films in the 1980s, Ralph Macchio says he "basically said 'no' for 30 years" to ideas for more. "It felt better and smarter to leave the legacy alone," said Macchio, who is now 57. He didn't want to "taint the legacy with a short-sighted idea or cash grab." The "Cobra Kai" creators changed his mind with an idea about a half-hour series streaming on YouTube Premium. It takes place 34 years after the first movie. Former nemesis Johnny Lawrence (again played by William Zabka) defines

down on his luck. He's living in a run-down apartment, has just been fired from his job as a handy man, and he keeps seeing ads for Daniel LaRusso's successful car dealerships. Lawrence ends up opening his own Cobra Kai karate studio (using the same aggressive principles that he was taught and displayed in the films) and LaRusso discovers it driving by. A martial arts rivalry is reignited as if it were yesterday. "You would think some high school nemesis opening up a karate dojo would be like, 'You know what? Let him have his thing' but for LaRusso, it snaps back into yesterday and that's



In this May 1, 2019 file photo, Ralph Macchio arrives at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

what's fun about the Johnny Lawrence/LaRusso rivalry, is that they push each other's buttons," said Macchio.

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 SAT 12:50 | 3:10 | 5:30 | 7:50 | 10:10
 SUN 12:50 | 3:10 | 5:30 | 7:50
 PBP MON-THU 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10
 FRI 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:30
 SAT 2:10 | 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:30
 SUN 2:10 | 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10
 YIP MON-THU 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30
 FRI 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50
 SAT 1:30 | 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50
 SUN 1:30 | 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30

THE HUSTLE
 ANNE HATHAWAY | REBEL WILSON
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
 PH MON-THU 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30
 FRI 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:45
 SAT 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:45
 SUN 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30

AVENGERS: ENDGAME
 ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | CHRIS EVANS
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
 PH MON-THU 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20
 FRI 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20 | 10:30
 SAT 12:50 | 3:05 | 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20 | 10:30
 SUN 12:50 | 3:05 | 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20
 PBP MON-FRI 4:55 | 8:40
 SAT-SUN 1:10 | 4:55 | 8:40
 YIP MON-THU 6:30
 FRI 6:30 | 10:10
 SAT 2:45 | 6:30 | 10:10
 SUN 2:45 | 6:30
 PBP MON-SUN 8:40

THE INTRUDER
 MICHAEL EALY | DENNIS QUaid
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
 PH MON-THU 5:45 | 8:10
 FRI 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:35
 SAT 1:00 | 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:35
 SUN 1:00 | 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10
 PBP MON-THU & SUN 4:35 | 9:30
 FRI-SAT 4:35 | 9:30 | 11:55

UGLYDOLLS
 KELLY CLARKSON | NICK JONAS
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
 PH MON-FRI 5:10 | 7:15
 SAT-SUN 1:00 | 3:05 | 5:10 | 7:15
 PBP MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:40
 SAT-SUN 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40

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North, South Korean musicians hold rare joint performance

By **DAKE KANG**
HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — South Korean violinist Won Hyung Joon took the stage, nodded once to his North Korean soprano partner, and placed his instrument on his shoulder.

With a flick of the conductor's wrist, she began to sing, and he began to bow — the beginning of a rare joint performance Sunday that they hope will bring the Koreas closer amid deadlocked nuclear diplomacy.

"Until today, I was thinking, will this really happen? Will it suddenly be canceled?" Won said. "Today was the day my dream finally came true."

Won, donning a white shirt, and Kim Song Mi, sporting a sparkling red dress, performed Antonin Dvorak's "Songs My Mother Taught Me" together with a Chinese orchestra at the Shanghai Oriental Art Center. After the last notes, they held hands and bowed to thunderous applause from the mostly Chinese audience.

Kim later reappeared in a traditional multicolored Korean dress to sing "Ari-rang," a Korean traditional folk tune beloved in both countries.

The concert came three days after South Korea said North Korea fired two suspected short-range missiles toward the sea, the second such weapons test by Pyongyang in less than a week.

For both Won and Kim, it was their first concert with a musician from the other side of the Korean border, the world's most heavily fortified.

They met several times last year in Beijing and agreed to perform together to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula.

"My heart is too full for words," Kim said in a dressing room after the concert, her first-ever interview with a foreign media outlet.

"For the moment, at least, I feel like unification has come."

It's extremely rare for musi-



South Korean violinist Won Hyung Joon and his North Korean soprano partner, Kim Song Mi perform at the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center in Shanghai on Sunday, May 12, 2019.

cians from both Koreas to perform together. Contact between the two sides is so restricted that North and South Koreans can't exchange phone calls, letter or emails without special government approval.

Last year saw an unusual wave of cross-border exchanges after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un abruptly agreed to begin talks over the future of his nuclear arsenal. A group of North Korean dancers and singers performed in South Korea during the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, and South Korean K-pop stars later flew to Pyongyang and sang in the presence of Kim and his wife, Ri Sol Ju. Both events were the first of their kind in over a decade.

But such exchanges are now becoming rare again as North Korea resumes provocative weapons tests, an apparent protest against stalled nuclear negotiations with the United States.

Kim returned home empty-handed from his second summit with President Donald Trump in Vietnam in February after Trump rebuffed his calls for major sanctions relief in return for his promise to conduct partial disarmament measures.

There have been no public high-level meetings between Pyongyang and Washington since then.

While Sunday's concert is unlikely to cause a diplomatic breakthrough, it could still "establish an environment" that could make it easier to improve ties between the Koreas, said Cho Han Bum, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

Inspired by the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which was founded in 1999 to bring together Arab and Israeli musicians to promote mutual understanding, Won, 42, has been pushing for the establishment of an inter-Korean orchestra for nearly a decade, contacting both governments on numerous occasions.

But his push for such an orchestra performance has never been realized and was often scrapped at the last minute due to the delicate nature of ties between the Koreas, which are still technically at war because an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War has yet to be replaced with a peace treaty.

This time, Won and Kim, 33, spent days together in Shanghai rehearsing and chatting, sharing meals, coffee and even a foot

massage before the performance finally happened.

"I really felt then we were part of the same nation, because we like the same foods and speak the same language," Kim said.

Won hopes that the fact that the performance was held despite the stalled talks shows the desire for better relations.

"We couldn't have had this kind of music concert if politics hadn't helped," he said.

"It was a small performance, but I hope people will look at the meaning it has."

Sunday's performance appeared less difficult to achieve because it involved just one person from each Korea, not dozens of musicians required for an orchestra, and it happened in China — the North's major ally but also the South's biggest trading partner.

Won said that the U.S. took notice, and that he had talks with high-level State Department officials before the performance.

The Shanghai City Symphony Orchestra, the biggest amateur symphony orchestra in China, performed with the two Koreans.

Kim and Won's performance was part of the orchestra's annual char-

ity concert, "Love in the City, Pyongyang Shanghai Seoul," held to raise awareness for autistic children.

In response to questions by The Associated Press last week, South Korea's Unification Ministry said it approved Won's contact with Kim as part of efforts to support civilian exchanges between the rivals.

The South Korean government is led by President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who espouses greater rapprochement with North Korea and has shuffled between Pyongyang and Washington ahead of the two summits between Trump and Kim Jong Un.

Kim Song Mi, a graduate of Pyongyang's prestigious Kim Won Gyun University of Music, is the Korean Association for Art Exchange's North Korean representative in China, where she has lived since 2010.

Known for her classical crossover singing technique, she has also released several music albums with North Korean and well-known pieces of classical music. South Korea media reported that she is the first North Korean sent abroad as a singer.

Won said that when he first met Kim last spring, he felt it was easier for him to bond with her and explain his dream than when he dealt with North Korean diplomats.

"When I talked about music with the diplomats, I had to explain why we need music and why music is good," Won said. "But I didn't need to do that when I met Kim, and we could just get to the point."

Won said he's hopeful he can continue to work together with Kim to organize larger concerts in cities across the world — in Pyongyang, Seoul or perhaps even Washington.

"Although today's performance was only for a short while, at least it's possible to come together to play music for this moment," Won said.

"I can't help but think maybe, just maybe, it'll bring more opportunities like this in the future." □

A coral reef cemetery is home to life in the afterlife

By KELLI KENNEDY

Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) —

A year after Will and Daniel Payne lost their mom, and nearly two decades since their father's death, it was time to follow their wishes for the afterlife.

As they board a boat with three generations of family, the brothers slip into flippers and de-fog their masks. Will, who became a certified scuba diver just days earlier, checks his oxygen tank and jumps into the azure waters to secure a concrete marker mixed with their ashes at a memorial reef about three miles out to sea.

This unusual resting place is exactly what the Paynes say their parents wanted. Buel Payne, a former Coast Guard member, and Linda Payne, who grew up on the water and loved boating, will spend their afterlife in a memorial modeled after the lost city of Atlantis, among impressive lion statues and ornate gates and pillars that encrusted with sea life.

It took nearly four years for multiple government agencies to sign off on this underwater mausoleum, which is designed to encourage a healthy ecosystem. Roughly a decade later, the Neptune Memorial Reef is home to the cremated remains of 1,500 people, and any snorkeler or scuba diver can visit.



In this July 19, 2018 photo, Will Payne and three generations of his family throw flowers into sea after memorial plaque for Payne's parents, Buel and Linda Payne, was installed at Neptune Memorial Reef near Miami Beach, Fla.

The Paynes are the first to be memorialized in the reef's expansion, which opened this summer and will make room for an additional 4,000 memorials over 16 acres, about 40 feet deep. Placements start around \$1,500 and can go up to \$8,000, with the priciest placements for specialized shapes like sea turtles and stingrays or for prominent spots throughout the city like the lions.

With reefs struggling worldwide against coral bleaching and other threats, the memorial's builders are providing coral a head start. The concrete struc-

tures offer a high pH level, enabling sea creatures to flourish.

"We're seeing animals here that we haven't seen before. Ones that have been missing for a long time," says Jim Hutslar, the reef's operations director and one of the founders. "We actually found a long spine sea urchin that was considered extinct in the Caribbean Sea."

Sara Thanner, an environmental supervisor for the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, says an April survey showed the reef supports more than 65 different fish, shrimp and lobster and 75 other species including sponges, soft corals, and hard corals.

For people making end-of-life plans, the reef means being part of something living. Hutslar is hoping that decades from now, the memorial will have grown into a massive coral reef where individual markers will no longer be distinguishable, and "family members will just know their loved ones are part of it."

"We're creating life after life," he said.

While Hutslar, Will and another diver descended to the ocean floor, Daniel and his wife and three children snorkeled on the surface, gazing down through the strong clear currents. They

spotted a parrot fish, barracuda and a monster snook. Abundant schools of small, colorful fish darted in and out of the sculptures.

They had picked out a small bronze headstone reading "Together at Last" to mark the ashes, adding their thumbprints on a decorative concrete sea shell. The divers picked a spot amid the underwater city's striking columns and statues.

"It's just amazing. It's so peaceful," Will, 48, of Sachse, Texas, said after surfacing. "If there is a heaven, that would be it for them."

Back on the boat, the fam-

ily snacked on cookies and oranges and enjoyed a day at sea, laughing, hugging and crying at times. The men's aunt and uncle also brought red roses that each member of the family tossed overboard.

Daniel, 41, of Princeton, Texas, said he plans to get scuba-certified so he can see it up close, and return every year.

"I really didn't get it when (my mom) was telling me about it and the more and more I think about it, it's really a nice, peaceful spot for your last resting place," he said.

Hutslar and his partners were solely focused on supporting marine life at first, figuring the cemetery would help pay for the reef. But he's helped hundreds of families say goodbye to their loved ones over the years, giving him a calling he's come to cherish.

"This has actually become my favorite part — being with the families," said Hutslar. Memorials for children especially stick in his mind. There's something healing about the ocean. He says you can see it when families return to the surface.

"You can watch something wash away," he said.

It happened again, Hutslar said, as Will Payne paid his final respects.

"I hope you're happy where you're at. I love you," Payne whispered through his mouthpiece. "Keep an eye on us." □



In this July 19, 2018 photo, Jim Hutslar, operations director for Neptune Memorial Reef, and Ray Lowenstein prepare to install a memorial plaque for Buel and Linda Payne, affixed to a cement baluster mixed with their ashes, at the Neptune Memorial Reef near Miami Beach, Fla.

Associated Press



In this July 19, 2018 photo, a memorial plaque for Buel and Linda Payne, affixed to a cement baluster mixed with their ashes, is displayed near Miami Beach, Fla.

Associated Press